

Hafa Adai!

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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVIII, Issue No. 160

www.saipantribune.com

TUESDAY AUGUST 14, 2018

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BOE files 'friendly' lawsuit

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The State Board of Education finally filed what board chair MaryLou S. Ada called a "friendly" lawsuit against the CNMI government—to let the Supreme Court to settle once and for all the definition of "general revenue" and the 25 percent of the annual budget that the Commonwealth Public School System is entitled to receive.

Ada said that BOE legal counsel Ryan Meyerhoff filed the lawsuit last week. *Saipan Tribune* learned that the lawsuit was filed electronically last Thursday.

"We want to settle this question once and for all. What are general revenues? It is a certified

See BOE on **Page 4**



VOLUNTEER CLEANUP

Children who go to school at the Japanese Educational Department participate in a cleanup by washing graves at a Japanese cemetery in Susupe last Saturday.

FAHIM UDDIN

See story on **Page 2**



From left, Cassandra Castro, cashier; Colleen Rana, sales representative; and Wilma De Leon, accountant, at Modern Office Supply in San Jose.

BEA CABRERA

No price increase in school supplies

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

Prices of school supplies have remained constant this school year, according to a roundup of stores on Saipan.

Wilma de Leon, accountant at Modern Office Supply in San Jose, said their prices have stayed pretty much the same as last year's.

"We did not have an increase in the store so parents and students can expect to see the prices of office and school supplies in our store to be af-

See SCHOOL on **Page 4**

IPI chair Marco Teng steps down

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC announced yesterday the resignation of its chairman, Marco Teng.

Teng served as chairman from January 2018.

As Imperial Pacific's chairman, Teng assumed an active role in Imperial Pacific's daily operations and key decision making as well as providing corporate direction. Teng's hard

See IPI on **Page 4**

Travel agency sues Star Marianas

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A China-based travel agency is suing Star Marianas Air Inc. over a plane crash on Tinian in 2013 that killed three persons, including its pilot, and injured four others.

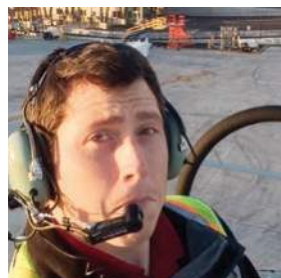
» Over fatal 2013 plane crash on Tinian

Foshan Tianning International Travel Ltd., through Bruce Berline, is suing Star Marianas for common law indemnification.

Under common law indemnification, a party—in this case Foshan—

See TRAVEL on **Page 4**

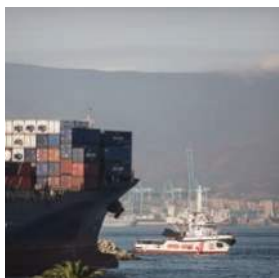
INSIDE



NATION

The friendly tone of a 29-year-old airport worker belied his desperate actions.

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WORLD

Migrants in distress at sea have told that several ships passed them by without offering help.

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FOCUS

The United States government is using its powers to revoke citizenship.

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Local

47 young Korean students clean Kilili Beach

Middle school students from South Korea collected eight bags of trash during their cleanup of Kilili Beach last Friday.

The trash collected by the students, who ranged from 6th grade to 10th grade, was made

up mostly of beer cans and cigarette butts. They were helped by the maintenance staff of the Saipan Mayor's Office.

Prior to the cleanup, the students visited Mayor David M. Apatang and asked for help

with the activity.

They later returned to the mayor's office and received certificates of appreciation from Apatang for cleaning Kilili Beach.

The students are also looking at doing another beach

cleanup, this time at the Aquarius Beach Tower Hotel, before leaving Saipan.

The student arrived on Saipan last July 24 for summer school with coordinator Judy Kim at Mount Carmel

School and intends to leave the island on Aug. 17.

Before the entire group leaves for Korea, Kim strongly wishes for the group to meet Public School System associate commissioner Glenn

Muña to discuss summer school education.

She also hopes the students will return next summer to again campaign for beach preservation in the Commonwealth. **(Fahim Uddin)**

Japanese association cleans and 'purifies' Japanese cemeteries

The Japanese Northern Marianas Descent Association led a cleanup of the Japanese cemetery in Susupe and Japanese peace memorial in Marpi last Saturday.

Some 15 volunteers and a few other young students and instructors from the Japanese Society Educational Department scrubbed clean the dirty graves at the Japanese cemetery in Susupe.

The students, aged between 6 and 10 years old, took part in a summer camp of the Japanese Society Educational Department to learn the about the Japanese culture and history and were taught to write and speak the Japanese language.

Japanese Society Educa-

tional Department pre-school teacher Akemi Ishikawa said, "I am proud to see our students and faculty helping to clean the cemeteries in Marpi and Susupe."

At the Japanese peace memorial in Marpi, 15 volunteers—including Japanese Society of Northern Marianas president Masato Tesuka and 2014 Executive of the Year Norman Tenerio—were involved in the beach cleanup.

After each cemetery cleanup, the group performed a five-minute prayer by placing candles on each grave.

Star Water Co. also assisted by donating cleaning materials.

Japanese Consul to the

CNMI Kinji Shinoda said the cemetery cleanups were part of the Japanese custom to honors the spirits of their an-

cestors.

"This week, everybody goes back to their hometown in Japan to welcome their an-

cestors' soul from heaven and the ground. Today is an opportunity for kids to learn about that," said Shinoda.

He also said that this week commemorates the Japanese surrender to the U.S. ending World War II. **(Fahim Uddin)**



Volunteers scrub one of the graves at the Susupe Japanese cemetery last Saturday morning

PSS sues Torres, Legislature

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Public School System has filed a lawsuit against Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, the Legislature, and the CNMI government to settle the issue of what constitutes the mandated 25-percent funding that PSS should get from general revenues.

PSS, through interim commissioner Glenn Muña, e-filed the lawsuit last Thursday in Superior Court. The court's clerk received the suit yesterday.

PSS, through counsel Tiberius D. Mocanu, asked the court to declare that the "general revenues of the Commonwealth" be defined as the total budgetary resources identified by the governor.

Mocanu requested the court to rule that PSS is entitled to an unfettered 25 percent of that amount, before earmarks or debt service payments.

Mocanu asked the court to declare that PSS is entitled to 25 percent of the revenue in any special account, separate and apart from the general fund, but which contains general revenue.

The lawyer said PSS should be reimbursed for any deficiency in payments made to it since fiscal year 2017 up to the present.

He said PSS' constitutionally mandated budget of 25

percent of the "general revenues" of the Commonwealth must come from the total gross amount of budgetary resources of the Commonwealth and all other funds from budgetary sources before

initial allocations are made. "In other words, PSS' 25 percent must be measured against the overall total budgetary resources," Mocanu pointed out.

He cited that in 2017, PSS' budget should have been 25 percent of \$212,649,298, which is approximately \$53,162,324.

The lawyer said the CNMI government, however, "earmarked" funding by setting it aside as unavailable for appropriation, and then designated the remaining funds as part of the "general fund."

"Because PSS' budget is a constitutional mandate, the CNMI government must treat PSS' appropriation as an initial earmark before all statutory earmarks," he said.

Mocanu noted that in 2017, it was only after all statutory earmarks had been deducted from the total identified budgetary resources that PSS was allocated 25 percent of the remaining funds.



Mocanu

He said Public Law 19-68 excludes from the general revenues of the Commonwealth funding for 14 earmarks, which amount to \$34,163,698.

He said Public Law 19-68 also excludes from the general revenues of the Commonwealth funding for three items: two refunding bond payments and one debt service to the Retirement Fund Settlement Agreement.

Mocanu said these amount to \$41,460,375.

He said these debt service payments and payment to the retirement fund are general obligations of the Commonwealth and are paid from the general revenues of the Commonwealth.

Mocanu said money from the Casino Gross Revenue Tax collections are part of the "general revenue" of the Commonwealth and should be available for appropriation.

The lawyer asserted that because collected CGRT is accounted for in determining the sum for the total budgetary resources available for the fiscal year, CGRT collections must be available for appropriation when determining PSS' 25 percent budget and should not be excluded because it is stored in a separate account.

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'This year's Konfitma exercise will be intense'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

This year's 24-hour, full-scale, all-hazard exercise called Konfitma will be non-stop and very intense, according to Ray Toves, director of U.S. Army Pacific, Weapons of Mass Destruction-Civil Support System Enhanced Response Force Package Training and Readiness Division.

Toves said they are going to start off slow to kind of exercise all agencies individually, and then they would come together for Konfitma.

"That's basically the reason why we came up with Konfitma. Its English term or translation is 'confirming with the plans,'" said Toves during a press conference yesterday at the Emergency Operations Center on Capital Hill.

The Homeland Security and Emergency Management's annual Konfitma will start today, Tuesday, until Friday, on Saipan and Rota. Approximately 100 personnel from different CNMI government agencies will be involved in the exercise. In terms of sub-supporting, about 60 responders are from Guam, Hawaii, Utah, Tennessee, and Washington state.

Toves said they have chosen several locations throughout Saipan and Rota to set up scenarios that involve chemical, biological, radiological, and explosives.

"They are all live. We have complete control of them. But it is only to test the first responders...to work together as a collective team to handle and mitigate whatever hazards are out there," Toves said.

He said the exercise intends to teach everyone each other's capability "so that when we do gather together, you're not going to get confused on how to...handle...hazards."

He said that training together prepares them for any kind of future disasters, mitigates recovery efforts and boost lifesaving and property saving efforts.

"That's the reason why we do this exercise every year," he added.

Toves pointed out that there is not one entity that can say they are masters at an all-hazard exercise.

"But the continuous efforts of annually doing this exercise makes us even better," he said.

The first Konfitma exercise was held in 2010.

HSEM special assistant Gerald Deleon Guerrero said Konfitma is an annual exercise that they do with their federal partners. "Basically, it's part of



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Homeland Security and Emergency Management special assistant Gerald Deleon Guerrero discusses this year's full-scale Konfitma exercise as U.S. Army Pacific Weapons of Mass Destruction-Civil Support System Enhanced Response Force Package Training and Readiness Division director Ray Toves and HSEM spokesperson Nadine Deleon Guerrero listen during a press conference at the Emergency Operations Center in Capital Hill yesterday.

a grant that we receive in the CNMI that requires we do a one annual full-scale exercise," Gerald Deleon Guerrero said.

HSEM spokesperson Nadine C. Deleon Guerrero said they will not disclose the exact scenarios but warns the public to be aware that they will be having different scenarios throughout the islands of Saipan and Rota.

She said if people hear any kinds of explosion, sirens from emergency responding vehicles, or presence of more first responders on public traffic, it is just part of an exercise and that they should not be alarmed.

"We are not shooting people. This is...to train our emergency responders and make sure that we identify gaps," she said.

"With that being said, we still want the public know that if you see any kind of suspicious activities, to please go ahead and report it anyhow just in case they are not related to Konfitma 18," she added.

Nadine Deleon Guerrero said this is the time when first responders get together to identify the gaps are.

"So in real life response we mitigate as few fatalities, as few property damage as we can," she said.

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SCHOOL

From Page 1

fordable. Even though our costs went up, our prices did not," she said.

De Leon said the company chose not to increase the prices at Modern Office Supply, concerned as they are with family incomes that have remained stagnant.

Also, she projects sales figures this year to stay the same as last year's. "Even if the Public School System removed some items from their school supplies list, the school still goes to us to buy the items that were omitted so they can provide to their students," she added.

De Leon said the surge of people shopping for school supplies started two weeks ago. "People started to pour in to get school supplies two weeks ago because the private schools opened early, like the first week of August, while PSS will start Aug. 15, 2018."

The store is open from 8am to 7pm but De Leon said they do extend hours when they still have customers beyond

closing hours. "We understand that parents only have time after work."

She said they've been getting over a hundred customers every day since private schools started classes and they expect more customer traffic in the weeks to come.

The National Office Supply on Beach Road also did not impose a price increase. In fact, "...we are even offering a back to school discount," said National Office Supply's Alice Legaspi.

The store started its back-to-school preparations last week, Legaspi said, to accommodate the opening of private schools and PSS this week.

"I notice that we get more people as the day of the school opening draws near and we understand that because parents have time after work and some wait for payday," she added.

As for sales, Legaspi believes that sales will be lower this year than last year's. "I think our sales will be affected by the CW-1 situation. We all know that a lot of CW-1 workers were sent home because of expired visas. Some

of them have children attending school on island and since the parents had to leave Saipan, the children went with them," she said.

"I know this to be true because I'm a CW-1 worker... based on personal knowledge, enrolment this school year went down a little because of children that went home with their parents who had CW status... I also know several parents transferred their children from private to public schools so there is a student population 'shift' in a way," she added.

Elena Justo, sales representative of Digitech Computer Services in Garapan, said their laptop sales is better this year than last year's.

"Parents are more open for their children to have their own computers. Laptops are

no longer a luxury but a necessity in school," she said.

"Most of our customers are high school students from PSS and the sales of our laptops went up recently because of the school opening," she added.

The zero-price increase in the prices of school supplies on island has relieved many parents. "We are very happy that school supplies are still affordable. I noticed that the price of pencils and notebooks are the same as last year's," said Maricel Bayog, mother of a 2nd grader at Garapan Elementary School.

"We welcome this as we not only get what my child needs for school but we also have savings and can use the money for other things. It's also good that the PSS list of school supplies decreased this year and it

Imperial Pacific respects Teng's decision to resign, allowing him to further pursue endeavors of his personal interest.

Imperial Pacific extends its deepest appreciation to Teng for his commitment to the company and wishes him well in all his future undertakings. (PR)

IPI

From Page 1

work and dedication to his duties as chairman have set a strong foundation for Imperial Pacific's future success in the CNMI.

exercise of their duties. "So far as I can honestly tell, my position and the BOE's position are not in conflict on the issue of what constitutes the general revenues of the CNMI."

"If I were to disagree or dispute a position, I would respectfully disagree with the opinion of the attorney general that would limit the definition of general funds by excluding so-called proper earmarks that create special accounts for special purposes. When funds are separated from the general revenues, then the amounts that would otherwise be available to fund our children's educations are reduced accordingly," he added.

"Therefore, I support the decision of [chair Ada] to take this issue up with our central government and the AG's office so that this issue can be resolved among the proper stakeholders and without, with all due respect, any judicial intervention."

Needs clarification

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said his administration has also discussed BOE's concerns and he believes that the issue needs to be clarified once and for all. "It is something that we've been looking at. It's a certified question that we need to go on this route."

"This is something that needs to be clarified. It doesn't matter who is in the administration. That's a question that needs to be answered one way or another."

His administration has proposed a \$41,759,806 for PSS in the fiscal year 2019 budget.

BOE

From Page 1

question that would be for the Supreme Court to address. We will wait and see. We're not doing this out of malice," said Ada, after yesterday's PSS kickoff rally for the 2018-2019 school year at the newly renovated Marianas High School Gymnasium.

"We just want it settled once and for all. It is not an unfriendly lawsuit but...to really clarify [the issue], that's all; we're not being combative."

She added that it was about time to finally clear things up since the issue has dragged on for almost three years now. "We've been circling the issue and discussing it so many times. Still, we can't come out with a concrete and definitive answer: what are general revenues?"

"It has been brewing for two or three years now. We've been giving other parties time to join us, and they agree and then back out. Now that we lost two potential [parties] that was going to join us, we can't stop, we want to keep the wheel going. The train has left the station," Ada said.

CNMI House Speaker Rafael S. Demapan (R-Saipan) earlier stated the Legislature's desire to settle the issue of what general revenues are and the 25 percent of the general budget that PSS is entitled to under the CNMI Constitution.

CNMI Attorney General Edward Manibusan also issued his own opinion, stating that the definition of general revenues comprise only those revenues deposited

into the general fund according to CNMI law.

"The speaker came out and still he didn't address exactly what we're asking, 'what are general revenues?' Our opinion and the AG's opinion also differ. So we need to have it settled," said Ada.

The BOE was planning to file the lawsuit as early as June but gave Demapan almost a month to answer their certified questions by July 31. The Legislature failed to answer by the deadline, prompting the BOE to push through with their lawsuit.

Article XV (e) of the CNMI Constitution states that PSS is guaranteed an annual budget of "not less than 25 percent of the general revenues of the Commonwealth through an annual appropriation. The budgetary appropriation may not be reprogrammed for other purposes, and any unencumbered fund balance at the end of a fiscal year shall be available for re-appropriation."

The BOE believes everything that enters the CNMI government's general fund is general revenues, therefore they are entitled to a 25 percent share not only from the annual budget.

AG's opinion

Manibusan, in a written opinion, said that revenues deposited into the general fund is the definition of general revenues as stated in Article XV (e) of the CNMI Constitution.

"Funds which are deposited into special funds and accounts separate from the general fund are not general revenues," Manibusan wrote in his opinion and then listed

36 types of funds that are separate from the general funds like the Land Compensation Fund, Commonwealth Lottery Fund, CNMI Scholarship Fund, and the Marianas Visitors Authority Trust Account.

Manibusan concluded that PSS is only supposed to receive an annual appropriation of 25 percent of the projected revenues to be deposited in the CNMI general fund. "As discussed, not all of the revenues and resources of the Commonwealth are deposited into the general fund."

"A substantial amount of Commonwealth revenues is deposited into multiple funds and accounts that are kept separate and apart from the general fund. Those special funds and accounts are not included in the computation of the [PSS'] annual budget. Only the revenues deposited into the general fund will be used to compute PSS' budget."

In full support

Demapan, in a statement, said that he has always supported defining general revenues in an all-inclusive manner. "For the record, general revenues as used in Article XV of the CNMI Constitution should include all the revenues that the CNMI collects, period."

"Accordingly, because I am actually in full support of the BOE position relative to the definition of general funds and my views are not in conflict with [Ada's]. I cannot legally or morally join in the certified question."

Demapan said there's a legitimate dispute between public officials relating to the

is only asking for really basic items like notebooks, pencils, pens, etc.," she added.

Jona Cordova, a mother of a first grader at Koblerville Elementary School, is also relieved that the required list of school supplies has been cut short. "Now we only have to think of getting basic school

items," she said.

Cordova also lauded school supply stores for keeping prices down. "When we started shopping for school supplies last week, my husband and I were relieved to see no price increases and we did not have to come up with a bigger budget this year."

TRAVEL

From Page 1

must prove that it is entirely without fault and that Star Marianas is responsible for the damages claimed.

Foshan asked the Superior Court to hold Star Marianas liable to pay damages and court costs.

Star Marianas flies aircraft between Tinian and Saipan. On Oct. 6, 2013, a Star Marianas flight took off from Tinian and crashed before reaching Saipan, killing the pilot and two passengers, and injuring four passengers.

Berline stated in the complaint that three of the injured passengers and one passenger who died in the crash were customers who booked travel through agents in China associated with Foshan.

Berline said the four passengers made their initial booking through Zheijiang Waihai Star International Travel Co. Ltd. (Waihai).

Waihai contracted with other companies in China and on Saipan to provide for the transportation and accommodations sold to customers in China.

Berline said Waihai contracted with Everbright International Travel Co. Ltd. to make travel arrangements for Waihai customers.

Everbright in turn contracted Foshan, with Foshan responsible for arranging flight tickets, local itinerary, accommodations, and other local travel arrangements.

Berline said Foshan in turn contracted with Saipan Travel to make travel arrangements on Saipan and Tinian.

Based on a contract/agreement between Saipan Travel, Star Marianas and other entities, Saipan Travel arranged for air transportation for its customers between Tinian and Saipan as part of pre-arranged tour packages.

Lei Wang, one of the injured passengers, sued Waihai in China on Oct. 21, 2014.

Berline said Foshan was determined to be liable to Waihai for indemnification and paid Lei Wang 1,065,680 yuan as an advance settlement.

Lei Wang later prevailed in her lawsuit against Waihai. Waihai was ordered to pay Lei Wang 980,463 yuan plus a case processing fee of 13,605 yuan.

On Oct. 21, 2014, another passenger in the crash, Penglian Cai, sued Waihai.

Berline said Penglian Cai also prevailed.

Waihai was ordered to pay Penglian Cai 410,603 yuan plus a case processing fee of 7,459 yuan.

On Oct. 21, 2014, the three injured passengers in the crash also sued Waihai for the death of a fourth passenger, Zhang Xiaolei, who was related to the first three.

Berline said the three passengers prevailed in this lawsuit, and Waihai was ordered to pay them 785,616 yuan plus a case processing fee of 12,217 yuan.

On Oct. 8, 2016, Waihai sued Everbright in China for indemnification.

Waihai prevailed and Everbright was ordered to pay Waihai 1,067,126 yuan, representing Waihai's liability to the passengers in the crash minus Foshan's advance payments.

Berline said that, in March 2016, the China Union Property Insurance Co. Ltd. filed suit against Foshan and Everbright to recover funds paid out as a result of the crash.

CUPIC prevailed. Foshan and Everbright were held liable to pay to CUPIC 500,000 yuan plus a case processing fee of 8,800 yuan.

Everbright filed suit against Foshan to recover costs incurred as a result of litigation related to the crash on April 21, 2017. This lawsuit filed in China seeks compensation in the amount of 1,102,818 yuan.

Thus, Berline said, as a result of Star Marianas' negligence, Foshan has been held liable and required to pay 2,677,298 yuan, or approximately \$423,817.

Berline said that since Foshan is only vicariously liable to the injured passengers for Star Marianas' negligence, Foshan is entitled to indemnification from Star Marianas.

"Foshan is without fault in regards to the crash, and, absent its relationship with defendant, would not be liable for damages in any way," the lawyer said.

Berline said because of the relationship between Foshan and defendant, Foshan has been held vicariously liable for damages suffered as a result of the crash.

As a result, Berline said, his client is entitled to complete indemnification by defendant for all sums for which plaintiff has been held liable in relation to the crash, plus costs of defense, costs of suit, and attorneys' fees incurred.



MLSC kicks off back-to-school project on Rota

The Marianas office of the Micronesian Legal Services Corp. distributed 45 backpacks with school supplies to students on Rota last Aug. 7.

"We've been visiting Rota as part of our legal office outreach. Seeing the need there made us realize we needed to extend our Back-to-School Project to students [on] Rota," said Jane Mack, directing attorney. "We're very grateful to all those who donated early to our project, making it possible that we could help [on] Rota."

The project reached out to elementary and junior/senior high schools for help in coordinating the Rota distribution. A Division of Youth Services representative on Rota helped with the availability of space and support staff. The project also received help from Luta Cares, which coordinated and paid for the cargo shipment to Rota.

At the distribution, children

and parents were excited and grateful. "Thank you so much for your unwavering generosity. Our students will truly benefit from the ... gifts," said Denise "Tanya" King, principal of Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Jr./Sr. High School.

MLSC is continuing the distribution of backpacks with school supplies to children on Saipan and Tinian. It is accepting donations through Aug. 31, 2018. You can mail the donation to MLSC at P.O. Box 500826, Saipan, MP 96950, or drop it off at its offices at the V.S. Sablan building in Chalan Piao, or call MLSC at 234-7729 and MLSC staff will pick up your donation. You can donate online through PayPal at MLSC's website, www.micronesianlegal.org or on its Facebook page. Or you can donate in-kind supplies at the dropboxes located at Joeten (Susupe), Modern Stationery, and National Office Supply. (PR)

Scheduled power interruptions this week

There will be a scheduled power interruption on Thursday, Aug. 16, and Saturday, Aug. 18, as the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will be replacing some power poles.

The power outage on Thursday will occur from 5am to 10am, affecting Chalan Lau-lau. Water service will not be affected. One power pole will be replaced.

On Saturday, the power outage will occur from 5am to 10am affecting As Lito. This will also affect water service to As Lito, Tottotville, South San Vicente, Upper Dandan, and Naftan. Three power poles will be replaced.

The purpose of the power interruptions is to de-energize utility lines and allow CUC linemen the ability to conduct maintenance of the power distribution system through the replacement of wooden poles with concrete poles at certain

locations of the power grid. The scheduled power interruption is a continuation of CUC's ongoing Hazard Mitigation Project that focuses on strengthening and hardening CUC's power distribution system through the replacement of 787 wooden poles with concrete poles. Of the 787 wooden poles to be replaced, 755 pole replacements have been made by CUC and its contractor.

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the working area. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (CUC)

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 2016 Camry SE 4-Dr, 4-cyl, Auto, FWD, Silver, Mileage 24,399, STK#U18-028R NOW \$21,699*	 2015 4Runner SR5 V6, 4-liter, Auto, 4WD, Red, STK#R18-025F WAS \$29,499 NOW \$22,999*	 2017 RAV4 LE 4-cyl, 2.5-liter, Auto, AWD, Red, Mileage 18,121, STK#R18-020F NOW \$23,999*	 2017 Camry LE 4-Door, 4-cyl, 2.5-liter, Auto, FWD, Gold, Mileage 12,499, STK#U18-059R NOW \$23,399*	 2014 Tacoma 2WD, DC Pro-4X, V6, Auto, 4WD, Red, STK#U17-139T WAS \$26,899 NOW \$23,999*	
 2013 Tacoma DC, V6, Auto, 4WD, Red, STK#U18-038T NOW \$28,899*	 2017 Tacoma DC SR5 4-cyl, 2.7-liter, Auto, 2WD, Silver, Mileage 17,659, STK#U18-022F NOW \$29,199*	 2018 Sienna LE Minivan 4-dr, V-6, 3.5-liter, Auto, FWD, White, STK#U18-062L NOW \$35,699*	 2018 Sienna LE Minivan 4-dr, V-6, 3.5-liter, Auto, FWD, White, STK#U18-063L NOW \$35,699*	 2015 Nissan Xterra Pro-4X, V6, Auto, 4WD, Red, STK#U18-035T WAS \$27,399 NOW \$25,999*	

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CNMI Disability Sports Festival

PHOTOS By FAHIM UDDIN



Froilan Camacho, representing the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Respite Service Program, demonstrates the method of playing adaptive softball last Friday morning at Marianas High School.



Children play "sitting volleyball" inside the Marianas High School cafeteria last Friday as part of the first-ever CNMI Disability Sports Festival.



Guided by Napu Outrigger members in the front and back of the canoe, children try out riding a canoe off the shore of the Minachom Atdao Pavilion last Friday noon during the first-ever CNMI Disability Sports Festival.



Members of the public try their hand at playing Bocce for the first time last Friday morning outside of the Marianas High School Gymnasium during the first-ever CNMI Disability Sports Festival.



The CNMI Disability Sports Festival sign is displayed above the entrance of the Marianas High School Gymnasium last Friday during the first-ever CNMI Disability Sports Festival.



A school bus provides transportation services at the first-ever CNMI Disability Sports Festival last Friday at Marianas High School.



A bounce house near the Marianas High School library is set up at the first-ever CNMI Disability Sports Festival last Friday at Marianas High School.



Members of the public and participants hang out at the Minachom Atdao last Friday at the first-ever CNMI Disability Sports Festival.

IN LAWSUIT AGAINST US NAVY, DEFENSE

Environmental groups' motions placed under advisement

U.S. District Court for the NM Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona placed under advisement Thursday last week

the motions filed in connection with the Tinian Women Association's and three other governmental groups' lawsuit

against the U.S. Department of the Navy and U.S. Department of Defense.

The Tinian Women Asso-

ciation, Guardians of Gani, Pagan Watch, and the Center for Biological Diversity are suing the two departments and

their top officials for alleged violation of National Environmental Policy Act and Administrative Procedure Act over

the decision to relocate 5,000 U.S. Marines from Okinawa to Guam and to conduct live-training on Tinian and Pagan.

After hearing the arguments of parties' counsels, Manglona placed the matter under advisement, saying a written order would follow.

According to court minutes, the hearing lasted over four hours.

Attorney David Henkin of Earthjustice, and Tinian lawyer Kimberly King-Hinds appeared on behalf of the four environment groups.

U.S. Department of Justice's five lawyers—Joshua Wilson, Taylor Ferrell, Cara Johnson, Mikel Schwab, and Jessica Wessling—appeared on behalf of the Navy, Defense, and their secretaries. Schwab and Wessling appeared via telephone.

Henkin argued in support of the groups' motion for summary judgment, while Wilson argued in support of defendants' motion for summary judgment.

Ferrell argued on the issue of cumulative impacts or cumulative action. Henkin argued in reply. Wilson argued in response to Henkin's arguments. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

10 SIS students named AP Scholars

Nearly half of the senior class at Saipan International School performed at a high enough level to earn an AP Scholar Award in their AP exams, according to the College Board's Advanced Placement Program. That's about 10 students of the class.

SIS headmaster Ron Snyder expects that number to increase when the seniors take additional exams in May 2019.

"I have nothing but respect for the incredible work ethic and dedication of our AP students throughout their tenure at SIS," added Snyder.

Last May, 31 SIS students took a total of 73 Advanced Placement exams. Of the 73 exams taken, 74 percent received a score of 3 or better, earning them college credit and/or advanced placement at university for successful performance on the exams.

Anna Calvert, Surui Huang, Junhee Lee, and Tania Tan were all named AP Scholars for having earned a score of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams.

Andrew Hudkins and Jun-Bum Huh earned the added distinction of AP Scholar with Honors by averaging at least 3.25 on all AP exams and a 3 or higher on four or more exams.

Michael Lee, Alex Park, Hyeonjoon Park, and Prunella Pellegrino were all awarded with

the top honor, AP Scholar with Distinction, scoring at least an average of at 3.5 on all AP exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on five or more exams.

This surpasses both the CNMI passing average of 20 percent and the national passing average of 61 percent, demonstrating the level of hard work and dedication of the SIS students and teachers throughout the school year.

AP offers academically prepared students the chance to take rigorous, university-level courses during their high school years.

During the 2017-2018 school year, SIS expanded its course offerings to include AP courses in: Language and Composition, Literature, Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, and Statistics.

This year, SIS is further expanding its course offerings to include Calculus and Human Geography with plans to offer Physics and Environmental Science in the coming year.

SIS is also the only school in Micronesia that is authorized to offer the AP Capstone Diploma. This innovative program is designed to equip students with the independent research, collaborative teamwork, and communication skills that are increasingly valued by colleges and SIS' first class will take the first Capstone exam in May 2019. **(PR)**



Half of the senior class at Saipan International School performed at a high enough level to earn an AP Scholar Award in their AP exams, according to the College Board's Advanced Placement Program.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP18-OPD-126**

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 31, 2016 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE FOR THE OFFICE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT (OPD)"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MAY CONTACT MR. ASCHUMAR KODEP OGUMORO-ULUDONG, DIRECTOR OF OPD, VIA EMAIL TO: Kodep.uludong@gov.mp. NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS AUGUST 10, 2018.

THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH THE CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-223, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A) - (D).

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL ADS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ ASCHUMAR KODEP OGUMORO-ULUDONG
DIRECTOR, OPD

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

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REGULAR BOARD MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority hereby gives notice that a **Regular Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on **Friday, August 17, 2018, at 9:00 a.m.** in the MVA Conference Room, San Jose Professional Building Saipan, MP 96950.

MEETING AGENDA

- 1) **Preliminary Matters**
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Election of Officers
 4. Adoption of Agenda
 5. Adoption of Minutes
 - a. Regular Board Meeting – July 6, 2018
- 2) **Public Comments**
- 3) **Committee Reports**
 1. Finance –
 - a. Fund Status Report – July 2018
- 4) **New Business**
 1. MOU Extension with CCVI for 500 Sails Project – No Cost Extension
 2. Updates to the MVA By-laws
 3. Off-Shore Marketing Plans FY2019
- 5) **Old Business**
 1. MOU with Saipan Mayor's Office for Beautification Projects – No Cost Extension
 2. MOU with Tinian Mayor's Office for Observation Deck Project – No Cost Extension
 3. MOU with Rota Mayor's Office for Mt. Sabana 360 Lookout Project – No Cost Extension
- 6) **Miscellaneous/Announcements**
- 7) **Executive Session**
- 8) **Adjournment**

/s/ Gloria Cavanagh
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

Following Classes start August 15:

- > **CORE/Electrical**
- > **CORE/Carpentry**
- > **CORE/HVAC**
- > **Automotive Technology - Brakes**
- > **Welding - Level 1**
- > **Welding - Level 2**
- > **Adult Vocational Technical High School**

Call Mae 235-6684 to register today.

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Building Skills for a Lifetime

Northern Marianas Trades Institute does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations. We are committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all students, members of our staff, clients, volunteers, subcontractors, and vendors.

IPI helps Kagman high, KES prepare for schools' start

With the new school year ready to open tomorrow, two schools on Saipan received

much-needed support from Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC in ensuring that their facilities and the school environment are clean and

conductive to learning.

Imperial Pacific's Corporate Social Responsibility office, through its School Pride Project, helped Kagman High



Imperial Pacific' Corporate Social Responsibility team water blasted the walkway of the new building at Kagman High School

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

School and Koblerville Elementary School last week with various facelift and improvement work.

The School Pride Project is a partnership-based initiative that Imperial Pacific has been doing for nearly three years now. It was established with the goal of encouraging students and school personnel to join in the preservation of the beauty of the islands, by maintaining a healthy and clean school environment. **(PR)**

IPI- CSR representative Tani Masga cleans the walkway leading to the new building.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Imperial Pacific CSR coordinator Melina Salas applies a fresh coat of paint in one of the classrooms.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



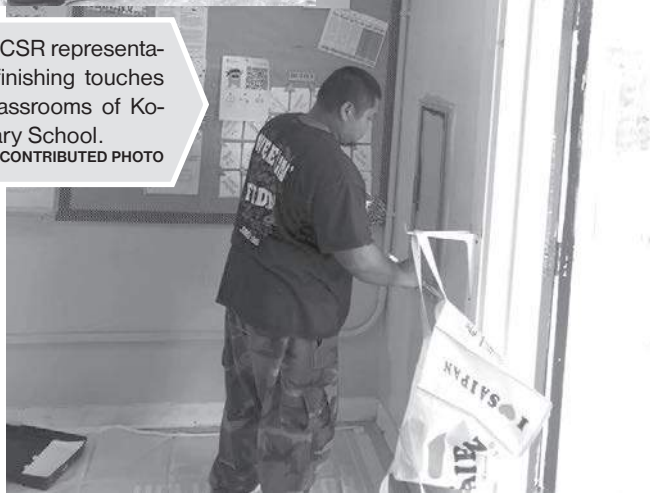
Jowel Naputi, IPI-CSR representative, puts some finishing touches on one of the classrooms of Koblerville Elementary School.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



IPI- CSR coordinator Edilynn Benjamin, an alumna of Kagman High School, pitches in to help beautify the school.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



The before look of one of the two classrooms that needed to be repainted.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



IPI- CSR representatives Jowel Naputi and CSR coordinator Melina Salas work alongside each other to ensure the work gets done.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Jia Kapileo, a CSR representative, applies a second coat of paint in one of the Koblerville Elementary School classrooms.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



IPI-CSR coordinator Kent Kalen also joins his team member in ensuring a school year-ready campus.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bill seeks priority service for elderly, disabled, veterans

A bill introduced Tuesday last week would prioritize the elderly, the disabled, and military veterans in service lines.

Rep. Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) introduced during Tuesday's House session a bill that seeks to

grant priority service to individuals who are over 55 years old; those who are physically impaired; and retired military veterans.

"We value our people and we owe it to them [to grant them] much needed relief,

especially if they come in to dispute a billing or to settle unwarranted discrepancies that are through no fault of their own. ...More important is the satisfaction of customers that our government prioritizes these folks," Deleon Guerrero

told *Saipan Tribune*.

The bill would allow these select categories of customers to move to the front of lines—such as customer service lines and remittance of payments—on a first come-first serve basis.

The exemptions to this bill,

however, are protocols for medical treatments to patients.

"I have witnessed customers in line taking more than 20 minutes to be served. Service providers do not know the condition of our valued customers, so it is imperative that

we set policies," added Deleon Guerrero.

The bill was referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations, which is chaired by Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan). *(Erwin Encinares)*

Xerox launches new products

Xerox Corp., maker of copiers and printers, is launching a new line of products for businesses, schools and corporations at its Garapan location—a two-part event that will happen today, Aug. 14, 2018.

The first part is the morning session that will start at 9:30am and people are encouraged to come 15 minutes before the event to register and enjoy the available breakfast.

The second part is the afternoon session that starts at 1:30pm and guests are encouraged to come in 15 minutes

before event to enjoy lunch that will be served.

The launch will be at the Xerox Saipan office located at Kalachucha Ave., Suite 103, at the Alter City Group Building in Garapan.

The new line of Xerox products boasts of features that include personalized workflows with new security features, cloud connectivity and access to productivity boosting features and apps, can translate documents in over 40 languages, device can turn into a digital billboard for important an-

nouncements, can convert flawless scanned images into Word and Excel and has print management software that provides device authentication, authorization, accounting and audit.

Prizes, souvenirs, a sweet candy buffet and the chance to win a \$100 Joeten shopping spree, lunch, brunch, and massage gift certificates awaits lucky guests.

For more information, get in touch with Darwin Sablan at (670) 233-5192 or email: darwin.sablan@xerox.com. *(Bea Cabrera)*

MARC Gala to celebrate community contributors

The Richard F. Taitano Micronesia Area Research Center at the University of Guam will celebrate 50 years of growth as a cultural repository and library with an anniversary gala dinner.

The gala, themed "Navigating Our History to Chart Our Destiny," will take on Aug. 21 at the Sheraton Laguna Guam Resort's Ocean Sirena Ballroom.

This anniversary gala celebrates community members who have supported the growth

of the MARC by contributing to the development of Micronesian scholarship and cultural awareness. Specifically, MARC will honor Dr. Lawrence Cunningham, a retired educator and former UOG professor, and Fr. Eric Forbes, a local historian whose work focuses on the history of the Mariana Islands.

"Navigating Our History to Chart Our Destiny" dinner tickets are available prior to the event at \$50 per guest or \$500 per table of 10 guests. Tickets at the door will cost

\$100 per guest.

Proceeds from the dinner will be used to fund scholarships for graduate students at UOG. Proceeds will also support future MARC projects, including the publication of a high-quality contemporary Guam history book, which will serve as a resource for Guam's students.

To purchase tickets, contact Mye Ganan-Flores at (671) 482-6930 or mye@triton.uog.edu or Myracle Mugol at (671) 735-2957 or myracle@uogendowment.org. *(PR)*

Navy sets underwater training in Guam harbor

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 5 will conduct routine underwater detonation training in outer Apra Harbor on Aug. 16, from 10am to 4pm.

EODMU-5 will detonate a total of five lbs of explosives at the designated UNDET location on a sandy area of the sea floor.


For the safety of the public and participants involved, the Coast Guard will establish safety zones to restrict access in the vicinity of the training area.

EODMU-5 performs routine underwater detonation training to develop the skills needed to be ready to rapidly respond to operational missions and unexploded ordnance support on Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.


The Navy conducted a multi-year environmental analysis, which the National Marine Fisheries Service, under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and Endangered Species Act, granted the Navy authorization to conduct underwater detonation training. The Navy is a committed environmental steward and employs protective measures to safeguard marine resources.

For the safety of personnel and marine life, the area will be visually cleared by divers and by lookouts on the surface before,

during and after the exercise. All activity will cease temporarily if a person or marine life is seen in the area. *(USN)*



Board of Trustees
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950



Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9911, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation hereby gives notice that a Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Wednesday, August 15, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. in the CEO's Conference Room 3 located at the Administrative Offices (new wing).

CHCC Board of Trustees Special Meeting
Wednesday, August 15, 2018 at 12:00 p.m.

Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Determination of Quorum
- III. Review and Adoption of the Agenda
- IV. End Stage Renal Disease Program Presentation
- V. Adjournment

The Shack is an emerald sponsor of Green Gala

Taking their cue from their involvement in environmental stewardship and conservation efforts, The Shack recently signed on as an emerald sponsor of the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance's annual Green Gala on Sept. 14, 2018, at the Fiesta Resort & Spa's Hibiscus Hall.

Glen Hunter, one of The Shack's co-owners, described the company's commitment to conserving natural resources: "We at The Shack are very conscious of the harmful effects of plastics and other non-biodegradable materials that can eventually harm our island's natural resources. We're recently begun to use bamboo straws in our restaurant, and all of our take-out containers are made of ecologically-friendly materials. We believe in the work that MINA does, and particularly in the outreach programs that serve to educate the community about the harmful effects



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Gloria Hunter, Glen and Svetana Hunter, and Henry Worswick join the rest of The Shack crew in presenting Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance representatives with their 2018 Green Gala sponsorship.

of marine debris and other pollutants entering our waters. The Shack is proud to be a supporter of these efforts."

Roberta Guerrero, MINA executive director, said that The Shack "has always been pushing the needle in terms of environmental responsibility, and we are so appreciative

their support for our programs. Community is everything, which is demonstrated by The Shack's ongoing commitment to the environment."

Tickets for the Green Gala are available now at the MINA office or from MINA board members. Call MINA at 233-7333 for more information. *(PR)*

PUBLIC HEARING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Department of Community & Cultural Affairs-Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) will hold a Public Hearing on

DATE	TIME	ISLAND	VENUE
AUGUST 10, 2018	5:30-6:00 PM	SAIPAN	CAROLINIAN UTT
AUGUST 14, 2018	5:30-6:30 PM	TINIAN	TINIAN YOUTH CENTER
AUGUST 16, 2018	5:30-6:30 PM	ROTA	ROTA YOUTH CENTER

The purpose of this hearing is to receive comments on the FY 2019 LIHEAP Model Plan to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to implement the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program for eligible households in the CNMI.

Copies of the LIHEAP Model Plan and the Agenda of the public hearing will be available for public inspection beginning Monday, August 6, 2018 at the DCCA-LIHEAP office located in Capitol Hill, Asuncion Road, Building #1339 and on the web at dcca.gov.mp. Persons wishing to schedule testimony or receive a copy of the LIHEAP Model Plan should contact DCCA-LIHEAP at 664-2574 or 664-2578.

Public Comments are due by Friday, August 24, 2018. You may submit your comments via dcca.gov.mp or the contacts listed below.

Mailing Address:

Department of Community & Cultural Affairs
Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program
Caller Box 10007
Saipan, MP 96950

Contact #:

DCCA-LIHEAP 664-2574 or 664-2578
DCCA Secretary's Office 664-2584

Email Address:

Gregoria Olopai, LIHEAP Supervisor (golopai1960@gmail.com)
Robert Hunter, DCCA Secretary (roberthunter@gmail.com)

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVIII, Issue No. 160

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Fleeting mistakes live forever online

I am forever grateful that I got to be young and stupid before virality was invented." So said Lydia Polgreen, editor in chief of HuffPost, in a tweet on Aug. 2. By the next day, it had been retweeted hundreds of times and "liked" by thousands of readers.

Sean Newcomb may wish he had been born a generation ago. The Atlanta Braves left-hander, age 25, came within a strike of pitching a no-hitter—and was barely done when he was confronted with Twitter posts he had put up in 2011 and 2012 using racial and homophobic slurs. Washington Nationals shortstop Trea Turner was busted for making similar tweets when he was in high school. These came to light not long after Milwaukee Brewers pitcher Josh Hader had been exposed for doing much the same at age 17.

All apologized, with Hader saying, "I was young, immature and stupid. There is no excuse for that to happen." All three will have considerable work to do rehabilitating their reputations and making amends for their nasty online remarks. Being in high school when you expressed bigoted sentiments certainly does not relieve you of the obligation to show that you've reformed.

But these incidents are evidence of the hazards of living in an age when youthful stupidity can attain immortality. When news breaks of youngsters being embarrassed or ruined by stupid things they said or did online, a lot of their elders say, "There but for the grace of the World Wide Web go I." A few decades ago, kids could graduate from high school without fear that their worst decisions or utterances would haunt them for life. Then, a brief lapse of judgment could be just that—brief, and soon forgotten. But the internet never forgets.

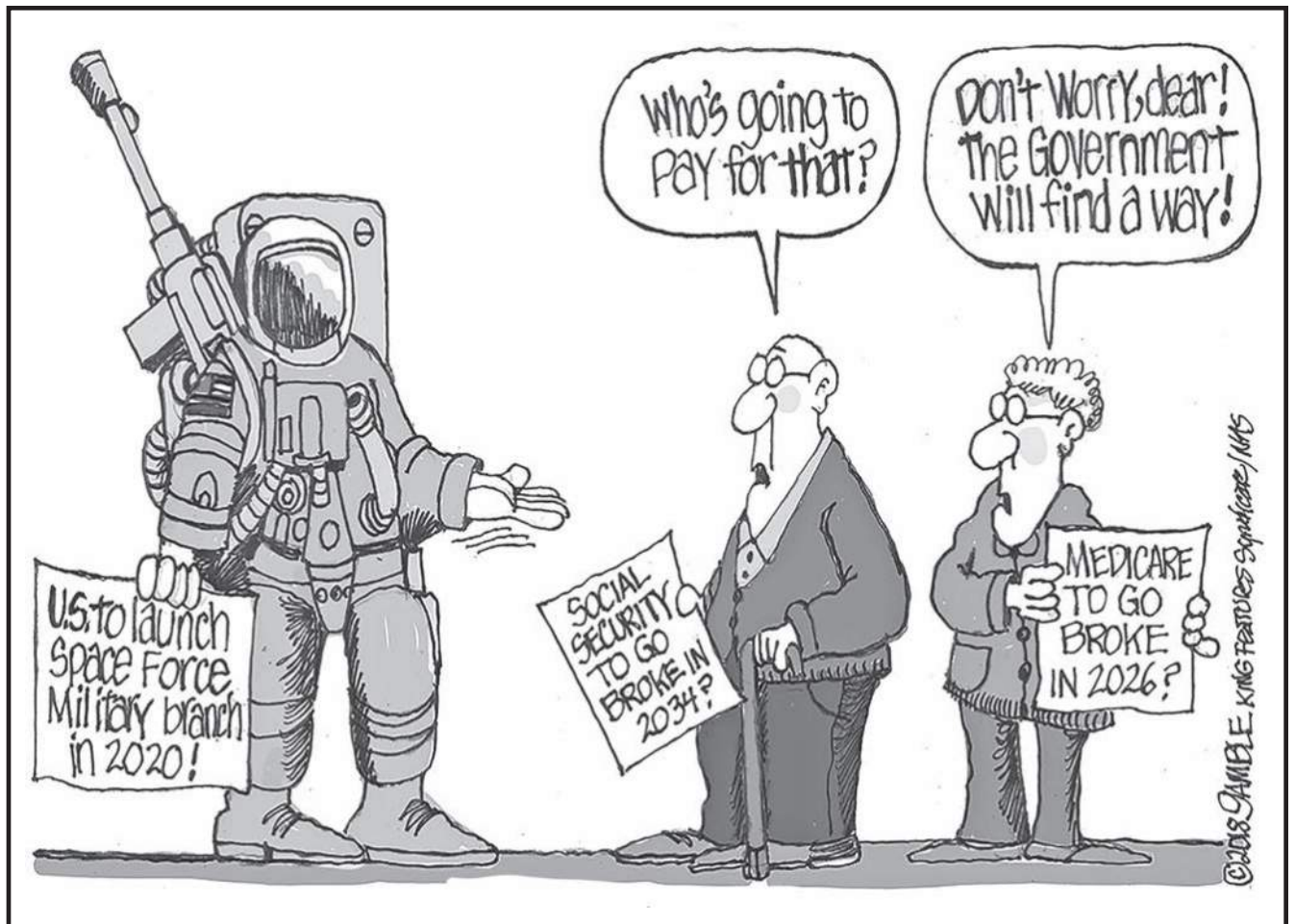
Each such revelation is a reminder that humans are universally fallible but often capable of reform. So citizens of the 21st century may need to fashion some informal new customs for the treatment of such sins and missteps. And we suspect there will be a shift toward a slightly more charitable treatment.

That's what happened once politicians found they could no longer expect journalists or others to keep quiet about their sexual shenanigans. When Sen. Gary Hart was accused of having an extramarital affair in 1987, the scandal torpedoed his pending presidential campaign. Bill Clinton's presidency survived the exposure of his relationship with Monica Lewinsky, though barely. By 2016, Donald Trump's history of philandering appeared to have no effect on his electoral fortunes. Once offenses are known to be common, they are less likely to be deemed unforgivable.

In a world where mistakes never disappear, many if not most of us are vulnerable to being harshly judged for fleeting conduct that does not show us at our best. The general ethos may evolve away from "an eye for an eye" and toward "let him who is without sin cast the first stone."

Until then, two suggestions: Think twice, at least, before putting anything online. And consider deleting your old tweets. Someday you may be glad you did.

(c)2018 Chicago Tribune



Is hard work enough to buy you a house?

In 1988, my parents bought a house in Anaheim for \$140,000. It's in one of those post-World War II tracts where all the houses have three bedrooms, two baths and one garage—everything two Mexican immigrants could ever want for their American Dream.

My father liked to hold pool parties for our extended family and serve everyone his famous carnitas; my mom was never happier than tending to her garden of chile plants, citrus trees and a massive bougainvillea. I go over at least twice a week to watch classic Mexican movies with them, or help cut the grass in the front lawn.

And every time I go, I take a moment to just stand back and marvel.

Two mexicanos were able to buy a house in Southern California. When they were 37 years old. In a not-bad neighborhood. And have four children. Without ever renting a room to anyone to help out with the mortgage.

This month, the house is all theirs after 30 years of payments.

How the hell did they do it?

"Work hard," Dad said.

"Save everything you can," Mom added.

With cliches like that, maybe they're not ready for prime time. But my parents offer a great example of how dramatically Southern California's housing market has changed over the last 30 years.

Mami and Papi bought their home in an Orange County that no longer exists. My mom made a living wage as a Teamsters-represented canner for the old Hunt-Wesson tomato factory in Fullerton. My dad was just beginning his career as a short-haul truck driver, after a decade working for the old Royalty Carpet Mills in Irvine.

All that hard work and saving meant they were able to put \$40,000 down and, during four straight years in the 1990s, throw in an additional \$10,000 toward the principal.

Their last mortgage payment will be an absurd \$300.

It wasn't easy. My parents never went on vacations—trips to Mexico don't count as vacation for Mexicans—and they never bought anything fancier than a top-level Stetson for my dad or silk shawls for my mom. My dad took over full responsibility for the house payments when the Hunt-Wesson plant shut down in 1997. And after clean-air regulations at the Port of Los Angeles put my dad out of work, I stepped in for some years.

But they never missed a payment, never took out a loan or refinanced. While friends and family bought second homes or moved into flashier digs that they couldn't afford, my parents stayed put; some of their friends ended up losing everything.

Their diligence paid off: Zillow says that if my parents sold their casa today, they could get \$563,000.

But they're not going to sell—they can't afford anything better

By GUSTAVO ARELLANO

Los Angeles Times



on the market today.

Now I'm near the same age when my parents became homeowners. And I'm proud to say I own my own abode—a P.O. box of a pad in Anaheim that I purchased in 2012. How did I do it? I hate to sound like a broken record, but I applied the same principles as my parents. I shared a bunk bed with my brother until I was 27, and never took a vacation of any length until my 30s. I wear clothes until the shirts are transparent and pants are frayed at the bottom. I saved and worked and saved and worked some more.

And I had good timing: While many of my friends bought at the height of the housing bubble, I leapt in once it crashed.

I won't say how much I paid, but my monthly mortgage payment is less than the \$1,871 average monthly rent for a one-bedroom in Orange County, according to real estate market tracker Reis.

So when I hear of educated Americans who can't afford to live in Southern California, part of me wants to tell them to buck up and make it happen—because if my parents were able to make it, and I was able to make it, why can't they?

But then I check myself and see the reality of the present day.

Investors inflate the market by gobbling up properties and converting them into Air BnBs or rentals; my parents' street has turned into a sea of absentee landlords who let tenants trash once-beautiful homes. Formerly solid working-class jobs no longer pay enough to make saving possible; people live from hand to mouth and have nothing left over for a nest egg. In other words: Hard work and saving aren't always enough anymore.

Two of my siblings still live at home despite working full time and getting benefits. They can't afford to live anywhere in Orange County on their own right now. When college-educated, second-generation kids can't top their working-class parents, that's a problem for the future of the American Dream.

That's how I see it, anyway. My favorite uncle from my mom's side, who bought a two-story house in Placentia in the mid-1990s—with a bigger pool than ours, on a concrete finisher's salary as the sole breadwinner, while raising six kids—sees it differently. "A trabajar, tontos," he'd say to the complainers. Get to work, dummies.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Saudi Arabia starts to weaponize its wealth

By LIONEL LAURENT
BLOOMBERG NEWS

Here's a subject that Elon Musk might think twice before tweeting about.

Resource-rich Saudi Arabia, which in recent months amassed a \$2 billion stake in the Twitter-mad billionaire's electric-car company Tesla Inc., has declared economic war on Canada. The cause was a tweet by Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland, whose call for the release of social activists arrested by the Gulf monarchy earned a stunningly disproportionate response this week.

Riyadh has halted new investments in Ottawa, expelled Canada's ambassador, stopped the state airline flying there, suspended a student exchange program, pulled medical patients from Canadian hospitals, and started selling off Canadian assets (according to the *Financial Times*.) It's out to punish the Canadians "no matter the cost," a source close to the situation told the FT.

Musk should have reason to care. He's half-Canadian, and studied in Canada. Had he built his cash-guzzling automaker north of the International Boundary, the Saudis would doubt-

less take a different view on that backing for Tesla—and the possibility of helping him take the company private again.

Indeed, it's this apparent Saudi willingness to "weaponize" its overseas investments that should give western governments and business leaders pause for thought everywhere—and might explain in part why Canada's allies have been slow to offer backing to Freeland and her prime minister, Justin Trudeau.

We've seen this style of economic warfare before—in the 1970s, Arab states wielded the "oil weapon"—but this latest attack comes after a dramatic increase in Riyadh's foreign investments.

The Public Investment Fund, Saudi Arabia's wealth fund, owns stakes in Uber Technologies Inc., German transport firm Hapag-Lloyd AG, Richard Branson's Virgin Group, an infrastructure partnership with Blackstone Group and the biggest-ever technology investment vehicle with SoftBank Group Corp. Turning Saudi's state investment arm into a \$2 trillion powerhouse is core to Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's strategy of diversifying the economy away from oil.

Few have seen fit to turn down this money. Yet we've already witnessed the collateral business damage the Saudis

can inflict if another country displeases them. In September, a Riyadh-led economic blockade of Qatar forced that country's wealth fund to sell shares in far-flung companies like Tiffany & Co. and Credit Suisse Group AG to prop up its domestic economy.

The latest geopolitical spat is small in terms of absolute economic impact. Canada-Saudi trade is tiny, and Saudi doesn't own many assets in the country. But it shouldn't be dismissed lightly.

Canada's western allies want to encourage "MBS" because they believe he offers the best chance of bringing the kingdom into the rich-country mainstream. Yet there's a risk in handing too much economic leverage to a government that's clearly ready to use it to halt even the most anodyne criticism of its human rights situation. As Donald Trump's trade rhetoric shows, we're moving into an era where these bi-lateral fights are becoming the norm.

Those Saudi billions may come in handy—just ask Musk. But there are serious conditions attached.

Lionel Laurent is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering finance and markets. He previously worked at Reuters and Forbes.

The real conflict with Iran

It's Tehran's turn for the "fire and fury" treatment.

In response to Iranian President Hasan Rouhani telling Donald Trump not to "play with the lion's tail" because "war with Iran is the mother of all wars," the president fired back in an emphatically all-caps tweet warning of "CONSEQUENCES THE LIKES OF WHICH FEW THROUGHOUT HISTORY HAVE EVER SUFFERED BEFORE."

Since the last time Trump theatrically threatened a regime with destruction he quickly turned around and had warm talks with Kim Jong Un in Singapore, his Twitter account has lost some of its deterrent force.

But the exchange of words has focused attention on a growing confrontation with Iran, in which the United States has the upper hand. When Trump pulled out of the Iran deal earlier this year, there were warnings that it would split the Western alliance, prompt an Iranian nuclear breakout or leave the U.S. isolated and unable to effectively sanction Iran on its own.

Instead, Iran is in the midst of an economic crisis before the U.S. has truly ratcheted up the pressure. In less than a year, the Iranian currency, the rial, has lost half its value. There have been broad-based demonstrations around the country. Major multinational companies are pulling back from doing business in Iran,

including General Electric and Siemens.

Iran wasn't in position to take economic advantage of the windfall of the nuclear deal. It was most interested in funding its terrorism and foreign adventurism, and even if it weren't, its economy is hopelessly corrupt.

U.S. sanctions begin to snap back on Aug. 6, and although the administration's goal of getting Iranian oil exports to zero by November is unrealistic, Iran could lose 1 million barrels a day in exports (in May, its exports had hit a record 2.7 million barrels a day).

This is nothing less than financial warfare against the regime, aimed at denying it hard currency to fund its foreign operations and ultimately at destabilizing it. The administration denies that it has a policy of regime change, but U.S. demands for a new deal are so sweeping and fundamental that Tehran couldn't comply short of a radical reorientation toward becoming a normal state.

The economic campaign is coupled with a strategy of backing our allies—Israel, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates—to the hilt in resisting Iranian aggression in Syria and Yemen.

With proxy forces across the region, Iran has cards to play, and the regime is inherently dangerous. At a time when it should be doing everything to curry favor with the Europeans, one of its

By RICH LOWRY
King Features Synd., Inc.



Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

diplomats was arrested in Germany for plotting a terror attack on an Iranian opposition group in France.

But Iran lacks several advantages enjoyed by North Korea. It doesn't have an overwhelming, powerful patron like China. It unites Israel and the Arab states, and none of our regional allies are pressuring us to negotiate with Tehran the way South Korea pushed us to talk with Pyongyang. Finally, Iran doesn't yet have nuclear weapons.

This gives the administration leverage. The mullahs shouldn't fear presidential tweets as much as the economic clampdown to come.

'No English'

FORT WORTH, Texas—Something I learned quickly after becoming a mother is that play dates are never really about the kids.

Sure, children, especially before they're school-age, will benefit from the exposure to an environment that's different from home. The interaction with other kids who might—heaven forbid—touch their toys and read their books help children to develop social skills and teach them other intangibles like sharing, generosity and patience. At least that's the hope of mothers the world over.

But the real reason so many mothers gather their broods together under the auspices of getting their children to play is because they need the social interaction and fellowship. They need to be reminded that they are not alone in their experience.

Motherhood is a blessing, a privilege and a gift. But it can also be isolating, frustrating and exhausting. That's especially true for mothers who stay home and for whom raising children is a vocation. And the sense of disconnectedness is certainly greater for mothers and children who are raising families in places far from home.

I was thinking about all this Wednesday morning as I drove my daughters to an apartment complex on Fort Worth's east side. We were attending a play date organized by Catholic Charities Fort Worth, with refugee moms and children from Eritrea, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Afghanistan.

I wasn't quite sure what to expect when we entered the community room where a small group of American moms was busy laying out colored pencils and card games, setting up snacks and trying to corral a bevy of kids anxious for the play date to begin.

When our first refugee guest walked in, my toddler buried her head in my shoulder. My three-year-old clutched my hand. Meeting new people is hard. I saw the same look of uncertainty flash across the face of the refugee mom, a beautiful woman wearing an ornate head scarf and pushing a wavy-haired boy in a stroller. She didn't speak English, but we exchanged knowing smiles. She held my daughter's hand. I touched her son's head.

Some of the moms greeted our guests with hugs; they had met them at the previous play date and the sense of relief at this familiarity was palpable.

My daughters and I were coloring at a table when two women in hijab seated themselves next to me.

"It's lovely to meet you," I said extending my hand.

One of the women took my hand in hers. "No English," she said.

I pulled up a map of the world on my phone, showed it to her and lifted my shoulders inquisitively. "Where?" I asked.

"Afghanistan," she replied.

I pointed to my two children, then pointed to her. "How many?" I asked.

She held up one hand and two fingers on the other.

By CYNTHIA M. ALLEN
Fort Worth Star-Telegram



Cynthia M. Allen is a columnist for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. Readers may send her email at cmallen@star-telegram.com.

"Seven?" I asked?

She nodded, smiling broadly. I wanted to ask about her children. How old? Were they all in the U.S.? What dangers at home had brought them here? But somehow, in that moment, our limited exchange was enough.






One of the host moms started a game of alphabet bingo. A beautiful dark-haired girl sitting across from me quickly filled up her card, a smile fixed on her face. She handed my daughter a tiny stuffed animal. Her mother looked proud.

There were few words exchanged that morning; that didn't seem to matter. There was a sense of shared understanding and commonality. Motherhood is hard. But none of us—even in the most trying of circumstances—are alone.

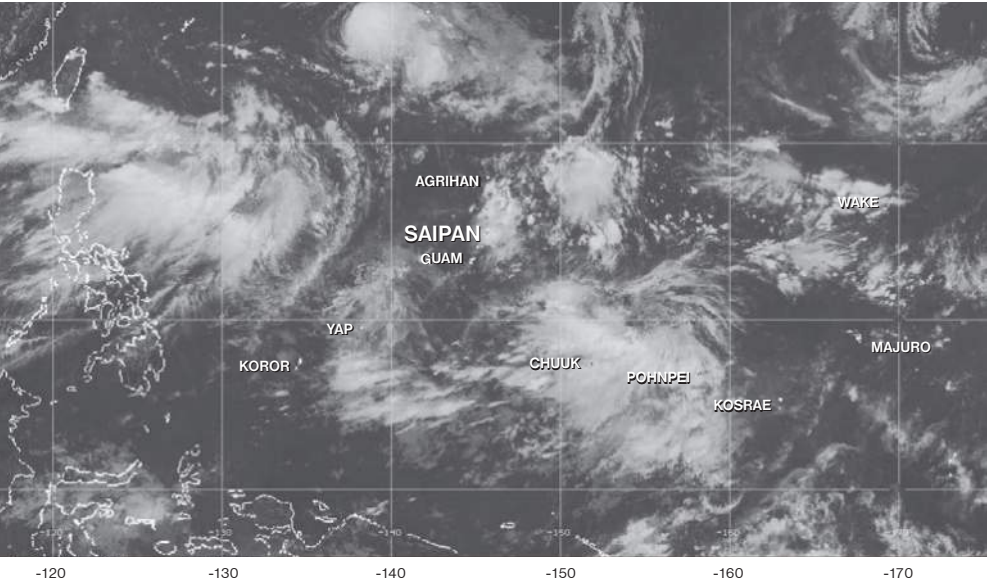
As for my kids and me, we're looking forward to the next play date.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲ 89° ▼ 78°	▲ 89° ▼ 78°	▲ 89° ▼ 78°	▲ 89° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 10:12 AM, MONDAY, AUGUST 13, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The Marianas are between weather systems right now, which should lead to fair weather through tonight. As the circulation to our southeast passes south of Guam, it will bring isolated thunderstorms. A period of scattered showers is a distinct possibility, however I could not at this time get any kind of consensus from the various NWP models, so left it out of the forecast at this time. Mainly updated the winds as there were a couple of odd temporal discontinuities. Did not update the wave grids as Wave Watch grids were looking too high, based on the higher winds from the GFS most likely.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA ▲ ▼ °F		
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorm	82° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorm	83° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	86° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	87° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	87° / 76°
Majuro	Mostly Sunny	86° / 82°

AROUND THE GLOBE ▲ ▼ °F		
Auckland	Showers	57° / 52°
Beijing	Showers	90° / 75°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	86° / 81°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	88° / 76°
London	Showers	81° / 61°
Los Angeles	Sunny	85° / 67°
Manila	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°
Melbourne	Windy	59° / 45°
Miami	Thunderstorm	87° / 81°
New York	Thunderstorm	84° / 71°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	91° / 81°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	79° / 59°
Busan	Thunderstorm	90° / 81°
Rome	Sunny	84° / 66°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	91° / 71°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	60° / 53°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	97° / 79°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	90° / 79°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorm	86° / 71°



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PAPA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
3:51 AM	LOW TIDE	0.74
9:09 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.01
4:05 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.17
10:31 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.02

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:02 AM	6:41 PM
Wednesday	6:02 AM	6:40 PM
Thursday	6:02 AM	6:40 PM
Friday	6:02 AM	6:39 PM
Saturday	6:02 AM	6:38 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	8:35 AM	9:08 PM	-
Wednesday	9:32 AM	9:52 PM	-
Thursday	10:26 AM	10:35 PM	-
Friday	11:19 AM	11:18 PM	-
Saturday	12:12 AM	-	-

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 6, 2018							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	8:45am	9:30am	Daily	UA117	7:00am	7:45am	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7	7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5	7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily	7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily	LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)				HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1	JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4	JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN	UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM	PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR				
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7	UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
				UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily

1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

China's Xi beset by economic, political challenges

BEIJING (AP)—As China's leaders gather for their annual Yellow Sea retreat, the country's political waters are looking choppy. Chinese President and ruling Communist Party leader Xi Jinping is beset by eco-

Manager needs to uphold policy on office romance

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE

Tribune News Service



Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of "Secrets to Winning at Office Politics." Send in questions and get free coaching tips at <http://www.yourofficecoach.com>, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.

Q: One of my employees appears to be involved in a workplace romance with another manager. Although "Gina" reports directly to me, "Josh" oversees her work on certain projects.

A few weeks ago, Gina confessed to me that she had feelings for Josh. She thought he was giving her positive signals and wondered whether she should ask him out. Since I wasn't sure how to respond, I just listened and tried to be supportive.

When I consulted our human resources manager, she said that because Josh sometimes supervises Gina, a romantic relationship would be against company policy. After I explained this to Gina and showed her the policy manual, I assumed that would be the end of it.

Yesterday, however, Gina mentioned that she and Josh have been "hanging out" as friends and are planning a trip to the beach. I strongly suspect that they are already a couple, so I'm not sure what my responsibility is now. Should I report their activities or just keep my mouth shut?

A: If you and Gina were coworkers, her amorous adventures would be none of your concern. But as her boss, you are responsible for seeing that she complies with company policy. However, this doesn't mean that you have suddenly turned into the romance police.

Instead of taking your suspicions to HR, remind Gina that if she and Josh should become more than friends, they must disclose that fact to the company. Have her sign and date a copy of the policy, including a statement that it has been reviewed with her. This should fulfill your management obligations.

Having clarified expectations, you can stop worrying about this pair unless their relationship begins to interfere with work. But if you spot signs of favoritism or find them smooching in the staircase, then it's time to involve human resources.

Q: I am disgusted by a coworker who sniffs and sneezes all day long. If anyone mentions this, "Brittany" plays the victim and says she can't help it because she has allergies. I control my own allergies with medication, so I don't think that's a valid excuse.

The worst part is that Brittany constantly sneezes without covering her mouth and sprays germs all over our small office. Although several people have complained, our manager says her hands are tied because this is a medical problem. Do you have any suggestions?

A: For starters, you might be slightly more forgiving about Brittany's medical issues. While you may have found an allergy treatment that works for you, her condition may not be comparable. That said, however, her refusal to cover sneezes is both rude and unsanitary, so your group has every right to revisit this issue with your boss.

For example: "We understand that Brittany has uncontrollable allergies. However, she needs to show more consideration for her colleagues. By refusing to cover her mouth when she sneezes, she is spreading germs around the office. Could you please explain to her that this is unacceptable?"

If your boss follows through with a firm discussion, hopefully Brittany will comply. But if not, the group may need to provide ongoing reminders, along with some sanitizing wipes and a box of tissues.



In this Oct. 25, 2017, file photo, Chinese President Xi Jinping waves while addressing the media as he introduced new members of the Politburo Standing Committee at Beijing's Great Hall of the People.

economic, foreign policy and domestic political challenges just months after clearing his way to rule for as long as he wants as China's most dominant leader since Mao Zedong.

Mounting criticism of the Xi administration's policies has exposed the risks he faces from amassing so much power: He's made himself a natural target for blame.

"Having concentrated power, Xi is responsible for all policy setbacks and policy failures," said Joseph Cheng, a retired City University of Hong Kong professor and long-time observer of Chinese politics.

Notably, Xi used to dominate state-run newspapers' front pages and the state broadcaster CCTV's news bulletins on a daily basis but has in recent weeks made fewer public appearances. "He can't shift the blame, so he's responding by taking a lower profile," Cheng said.

The challenges so far aren't seen as a threat to Xi's grip on power, but for many Chinese, the government's credibility is on the line.

Of greatest concern to many is the trade war with the U.S.

that threatens higher tariffs on hundreds of billions of dollars of Chinese exports. Critics say they've yet to see a coherent strategy from Beijing that could guide negotiations with Washington and avoid a major blow to the economy. Beijing instead seems to be opting for defiance and retaliatory measures of its own.

Both the stock market and the currency have weakened in response and the Communist Party itself conceded at a meeting last month that external factors were weighing heavily on economic growth.

At the same time, a scandal over vaccines has reignited long-held fears over the integrity of the health care industry and the government's ability to police the sprawling firms that dominate the economy.

"Trust is the most important thing and a loss of public confidence in the government could be devastating," said Zhang Ming, a retired professor of political science in Beijing.

And last week, the authorities mobilized a massive security effort to squelch a planned protest in Beijing over the sudden collapse of hundreds

of peer-to-peer borrowing schemes that underscore the government's inability to reform the finance system to cater to small investors.

Meanwhile, Xi's signature project, the trillion-dollar "Belt and Road" initiative to build investment and infrastructure links with 65 nations, is running into headwinds over sticker shock among the countries involved. Some Chinese have also questioned the wisdom of sending vast sums abroad at a time when millions of Chinese remain mired in poverty.

That in part plays into concerns over Xi's abandonment of the highly pragmatic, low-key cautious approach to foreign relations advocated by Deng Xiaoping, the architect of China's economic reforms that laid the groundwork for today's relative prosperity.

Leaders are likely to discuss at least some of these challenges during informal discussions at the Beidaihe resort in Hebei province as part of a tradition begun under Mao. Xi and others generally drop out of sight for two weeks or more during the summer session.

Xi's mildly bombastic brand

of Chinese triumphalism "has not been popular with many in the party," leading critics to speak out, said Steve Tsang, director of the China Institute at London's School of Oriental and African Studies.

Some have even called for the sacking of one prominent proponent of the rising China theme, Tsinghua University economist Hu Angang, with 27 graduates of the elite institution signing a letter to that effect.

Resentment lingers also over Xi's moves to consolidate power, including pushing through the removal of presidential term limits in March and establishing a burgeoning cult of personality.

That resentment was given voice in a lengthy jeremiad titled "Imminent Fears, Imminent Hopes" penned by Tsinghua University law professor Xu Zhangrun, who warned that, "Yet again people throughout China ... are feeling a sense of uncertainty, a mounting anxiety in relation both to the direction the country is taking as well as in regard to their personal security."

"These anxieties have generated something of a nationwide panic," Xu continued before listing eight areas of concern including stricter controls over ideology, repression of the intelligentsia, excessive foreign aid and "The End of Reform and the Return of Totalitarianism."

Even more boldly, Xu called for a restoration of presidential term limits and a re-evaluation of the 1989 pro-democracy movement centered on Beijing's Tiananmen Square. The peaceful protests were crushed by the military and remain a taboo topic to this day.

Although Xu is reportedly out of the country and has not been officially sanctioned, another long-time critic, retired professor Sun Wenguang, found himself carted off by police in the middle of a radio interview with the Voice of America in which he railed against China's lavish spending abroad.

Turkey's finance chief: Action plan ready to ease markets

ISTANBUL (AP)—Turkey's finance minister said Sunday that the government has prepared "an action plan" aimed at easing market concerns that have led to a slump in the value of the nation's currency.

In an interview with the newspaper Hurriyet, Treasury and Finance Minister Berat Albayrak also said the government had no plans to seize foreign currency deposits or convert deposits to the Turkish lira.

"As of Monday morning, our institutions will take the necessary actions and will share the necessary announcements with markets," Albayrak was quoted as saying.

"All our precautions and actions plans are ready," he added, without elaborating.

Turkey was hit by a financial shockwave this past week as the lira nosedived 14 percent Friday over concerns about the government's economic poli-

cies and a trade and diplomatic dispute with the United States. The currency's value has fallen more than 40 percent since the start of the year.

Earlier, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned of drastic measures if businesses withdraw foreign currency from banks.

Speaking in the northeastern city of Trabzon on Sunday, Erdogan warned business executives to not "rush to banks

to withdraw foreign currency."

He added that businesses should "know that keeping this nation alive and standing isn't just our job, but also the job of industrialists, of merchants."

During the speech, Erdogan reiterated his earlier claim that the crisis has resulted from "an operation against our economy conducted through exchange rates" and said Turkey would prevail.

Nation

Friendly tone belied desperate acts of Seattle plane thief

SEATTLE (AP)—He cracked jokes, complimented the professional demeanor of an air traffic controller and apologized for making a fuss.

But the friendly tone of a 29-year-old airport worker who stole a commercial plane Friday night, performing acrobatic stunts before the fatal plunge into a thick island forest, belied his desperate actions.

"I think I'm going to try to do a barrel roll, and if that goes good I'll go nose down and call it a night," Richard Russell said from the cockpit, according to a recording of his conversation with the controller.

The Pierce County Medical Examiner's Office confirmed Sunday that Russell had died in the fiery wreckage, but whether the crash was deliberate or accidental was one of several topics remaining for investigators.

Others include how, nearly 17 years after the 9/11 attack, someone can simply take a passenger plane from a major U.S. airport without authorization.

The Seattle FBI office said Sunday that it had recovered the flight data recorder and components of the cockpit voice recorder from the Horizon plane. The NTSB is now processing the equipment.

The FBI also said it found human remains among the wreckage.

Tragic as Russell's death was, he could have inflicted vastly more damage had he been so inclined. Potential targets included tens of thousands of fans assembling at Safeco Field, about 12 miles (19 kilometers) away, for a sold-out Pearl Jam concert just as he took off.

"Last night's event is going to push us to learn what we can from this tragedy so that we can ensure this does not happen again at Alaska Air Group or at any other airline," Brad Tilden, CEO of Alaska



This undated image posted to Richard Russell's YouTube channel shows Russell, an airline ground agent. Investigators are piecing together how Russell stole an empty commercial airplane, took off from Sea-Tac International Airport in Seattle, and crashed into a small island in the Puget Sound in Washington.

Airlines, told a news conference Saturday.

The plane was a Bombardier Q400, a turboprop that seats 76 people, owned by Horizon Air, part of Alaska Airlines. It had been parked at a cargo and maintenance area for the night after arriving from Victoria, British Columbia, earlier in the day.

Russell, a 3 1/2-year Horizon employee, worked as a ground service agent. His responsibilities included towing and pushing aircraft for takeoff and gate approach, de-icing them, and handling baggage.

Authorities said he used a tractor to rotate the plane 180 degrees, positioning it so that he could taxi toward a runway.

They said it's not clear whether he had ever taken flight lessons or used flight simulators, or where he gained the skills to take off. The plane didn't require a key, but it did require buttons and switches to be activated in a particular order.

His 75-minute flight during the golden twilight took him south and west, toward the Olympic Mountains. As a flight controller tried to persuade him to land, he wondered aloud about whether he had enough fuel to make it to the Olympics, talked of the beautiful view, and said he had a lot of people who cared about him, apologizing for what he was doing.

He complimented the con-

troller: "You are very calm, collect, poised," he said.

He said flying was a "blast" and that he didn't need much help: "I've played some video games before."

"You think if I land this successfully Alaska will give me a job as a pilot?" he joked.

He also told the controller he "wasn't really planning on landing" the aircraft, and he described himself as "just a broken guy."

Authorities sent fighter jets to escort him, and the controller repeatedly tried to direct him to runways. But the plane slammed into tiny Ketron Island, a sparsely populated island southwest of Tacoma.

Russell went by "Beebo"

on social media. On his Facebook page, which had limited public access, he said he was from Wasilla, Alaska; lived in Sumner, Washington; and was married in 2012.

In a humorous YouTube video he posted last year, he talked about his job and included videos and photos of his travels.

"I lift a lot of bags. Like a lot of bags. So many bags," he said.

Russell's family said in a statement that they were stunned and heartbroken. They said it's clear Russell didn't intend to harm anyone, and "he was right in saying that there are so many people who loved him."

Cooler weather helps crews fight Southern California fire

LAKE ELSINORE, Calif.

(AP)—Aided by slightly cooler temperatures, firefighters made steady progress Sunday in battling a wildfire that destroyed 16 structures as it raged through Southern California's Cleveland National Forest.

The Holy Fire was 41 percent contained Sunday afternoon after burning across 35.5 square miles (92 kilometers) of dry timber and brush, said Lynne Tolmachoff of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

"The weather out here in California seems to be cooling down today and over the next couple days, and that should hopefully help firefighters get even more containment," Tolmachoff said. "They should make better progress over the next couple of days."

They'll need to, with temperatures, expected to again reach 100 degrees or more by the end of the week.

The Holy Fire—named for Holy Jim Canyon, where it began last Monday—is one of nearly 20 blazes burning across California as the state sees earlier, longer and more destructive wildfire seasons because of drought, warmer weather attributed to climate change and home construction deeper into forests.

With firefighters beginning to get a better handle on the blaze, they began to lift evacuation orders over the weekend for areas previously in its path, said Tolmachoff, who did not have exact numbers. More than 20,000 people were reportedly told to evacuate at one point.

Aircraft have made flight after flight, dumping water and bright pink retardant on the blaze to protect Lake Elsinore and other foothill communities near the flames.

The man accused of deliberately starting the fire appeared in court on Friday, but his arraignment was postponed.

Forrest Clark, 51, made several outbursts, claiming his life was being threatened and saying the arson charge against him was a lie. A court commissioner ordered his bail to remain at \$1 million.

Elsewhere, the largest wildfire ever recorded in California—the Mendocino Complex—burning north of Sacramento destroyed more than 100 homes. It was nearly 70 percent contained.

Ellison denies abuse allegations from ex-girlfriend

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Minnesota Rep. Keith Ellison on Sunday denied an allegation from an ex-girlfriend that he had once dragged her off a bed while screaming obscenities at her—an allegation that came just days before a Tuesday primary in which the congressman is among several Democrats running for state attorney general.

The allegation first surfaced Saturday night from Karen Monahan after her son alleged in a Facebook post that he had seen hundreds of angry text messages from Ellison, some threatening his mother. He also wrote he had viewed a video in which Ellison

dragged Monahan off the bed by her feet. Monahan, a Minneapolis political organizer, said via Twitter that what her son posted was "true."

Ellison denied the allegation of physical abuse. A spokesman for his campaign also denied the congressman had sent threatening text messages.

"Karen and I were in a long-term relationship which ended in 2016, and I still care deeply for her well-being," Ellison said in a statement. "This video does not exist because I have never behaved in this way, and any characterization otherwise is false."

Monahan had sent Twitter messages for several months

referencing an unidentified, powerful man who had abused her. She had declined to share her story when contacted in recent weeks by The Associated Press, and she did not respond to a message late Saturday requesting copies of the texts and video.

Minnesota Public Radio News reported Sunday that it reviewed more than 100 text and Twitter messages between Ellison and Monahan that showed the two communicating over months after their breakup, including coordinating her getting her things from his house. MPR said the tenor was sometimes friendly, sometimes combative. MPR

said in one message, Monahan told Ellison she planned to write about their "journey" and Ellison warned her not to, calling it a "horrible attack on my privacy, unreal."

MPR said there was no evidence in the messages it reviewed of alleged physical abuse.

Ellison, who is divorced, is a six-term congressman and a leader within the Democratic Party. He became deputy chairman of the Democratic National Committee last year after falling just short of the top job. He announced this summer he would leave Congress after six terms representing the Minneapolis area and

run for the state's open attorney general's office.

With a huge fundraising advantage and star power over his opponents—including a visit from Vermont Sen. and 2016 presidential candidate Bernie Sanders—Ellison was considered the heavy favorite heading into Tuesday's primary.

Ellison's Democratic opponents pounced on the allegations. State Rep. Debra Hilstrom circulated the initial Facebook post Saturday night, calling the allegations "troubling." Tom Foley, a former county attorney, called on any video or messages to be turned over to law enforcement for an "immediate investigation."

Asia

Rival Koreas start talks meant to set up leaders' summit

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Senior officials from the rival Koreas met Monday to set a date and venue for a third summit between South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, part of an effort to breathe new life into resolving the nuclear standoff between Washington and Pyongyang.

The two leaders, who first met in April in a highly publicized summit and then again in May for more informal talks, previously agreed to meet again sometime in the fall in Pyongyang but released no concrete details.

The meeting Monday at a North Korea-controlled building in the border village of Panmunjom comes amid growing worries about whether North Korea will begin abandoning its nuclear weapons, something officials suggested would happen after Kim's summit with President Donald Trump in June in Singapore.

North Korea is thought to have a growing arsenal of



In this photo provided by South Korea Unification Ministry, South Korean Unification Minister Cho Myoung-gyon, second from left, talks with his North Korean counterpart Ri Son Gwon, second from right, during their meeting at the northern side of Panmunjom in the Demilitarized Zone, North Korea, Monday, Aug. 13, 2018.

nuclear bombs and long-range missiles and to be closing in on the ability to reliably target anywhere on the U.S. mainland. A string of weapons tests last year, during which Pyongyang claimed to have completed its nuclear arsenal,

had many in Asia worried that Washington and Pyongyang were on the brink of war.

After a peace offering by Kim Jong Un in January, Moon was able to orchestrate his own summits with Kim, which were followed by Kim and Trump's meeting in June.

The South Korean delegation for Monday's talks is led by Cho Myoung-gyon, who oversees Seoul's Unification Ministry that handles inter-Korean issues, and includes

Nam Gwan-pyo, a Moon aide responsible for North Korean nuclear matters.

The North Korean delegation is led by Ri Son Gwon, chairman of the North's agency that deals with inter-Korean affairs. North Korea, which proposed Monday's talks last week, also sent officials overseeing past inter-Korean economic collaborations.

In opening remarks, the head of the North Korean delegation set a positive tone for

the day's meeting, comparing the current state of inter-Korean relations to very close friends where nothing can stand between the two.

"We are attending this talk with an intention to get some good outcomes," Ri told the South Korean delegation, according to pool reports. He added that continuing the discussions on the two leaders' summit in Pyongyang will help improve the inter-Korean ties.

"We will listen to the

North's stance on the inter-Korean summit for this fall, which is agreed upon in the Panmunjom declaration, and share our views," Cho told reporters before heading to the border, referring to the agreement at the April summit.

The meeting between Seoul and Pyongyang comes as experts see slow progress on efforts to disarm North Korea since the Singapore summit.

Pyongyang urged Washington to reciprocate its goodwill gestures, which include suspending missile and nuclear tests and returning the remains of Americans who fought in the Korean War. Washington, which cancelled an annual joint military exercise with South Korea that had taken place in August in previous years, has refused to ease sanctions until North Korea finally and fully denuclearizes.

Taliban's political stature rises with talks in Uzbekistan

ISLAMABAD (AP)—In a rare diplomatic foray and the strongest sign yet of increasing Taliban political clout in the region, the head of the insurgents' political office led a delegation to Uzbekistan to meet senior Foreign Ministry officials there, Uzbek and Taliban officials said.

Taliban political chief Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanikzai represented the insurgents in the four-day talks that ended on Friday and included meetings with Uzbekistan's Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Kamilov as well as the country's special representative to Afghanistan Ismatilla Irgashev.

The meetings follow an offer made by Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev in March to broker peace in Afghanistan.

Suhail Shaheen, spokesman for the Taliban's political office in Qatar, said in a statement to The Associated Press on Saturday that discussions covered everything from withdrawal of international troops from Afghanistan to peace prospects and possible Uzbek-funded development projects that could include railway lines and electricity.

Shaheen said Uzbek officials discussed their security concerns surrounding the de-

velopment projects.

"The Taliban also exchanged views with the Uzbek officials about the withdrawal of the foreign troops and reconciliation in Afghanistan," he said in the statement.

Uzbek's Foreign Affairs Ministry website offered a terse announcement on the visit, saying "the sides exchanged views on prospects of the peace process in Afghanistan."

Still, the meetings are significant, coming as the Taliban are ramping up pressure on Afghan security forces with relentless and deadly attacks. Washington has held preliminary talks with the insurgents in an attempt to find a negotiated end to Afghanistan's protracted war.

The Taliban have gained increasing attention from Russia as well as Uzbekistan, which view the insurgency as a bulwark against the spread of the Islamic State group in Afghanistan. The United States has accused Moscow of giving weapons to the Taliban.

Still, Andrew Wilder, vice president of Asia programs at the U.S. Institute of Peace said Washington would welcome a "constructive" Russian role in finding a way toward a peace pact in Afghanistan.

US advising Afghan forces in battle for eastern city

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The United States has sent military advisers to aid Afghan forces in Ghazni, where they were struggling on Sunday to regain full control three days after the Taliban launched a massive assault on the eastern city.

The assault was a major show of force by the Taliban, who had infiltrated deep into the city and attacked from several directions. In recent years the insurgents have seized several districts across the country and staged near-daily attacks on Afghan security forces, but have been unable to capture and hold urban areas.

The U.S.-led NATO mission has carried out airstrikes in support of Afghan forces. Lt. Col. Martin O'Donnell, a spokesman for U.S. forces in Afghanistan, said Afghan forces were engaged in a "cleanup operation," while acknowledging for the first time that "some U.S. advisers were on the ground."

The U.S. and NATO formally concluded their combat mission at the end of 2014, but have repeatedly come to the aid of Afghan forces as they have struggled to combat a resurgent Taliban. The insur-

gents have meanwhile been steadily increasing their political profile, demanding direct talks with Washington and recently meeting with officials in neighboring Uzbekistan.

Ghazni, a key city linking areas of Taliban influence barely 120 kilometers (75 miles) from the capital, Kabul, came under attack early Friday. The Taliban claim to have seized parts of the city, while Afghan officials insist the situation is under control. The Taliban have destroyed a communications tower, severing phone links and making it difficult to confirm details of the fighting.

Afghanistan's Tolo News reported that a reinforcement convoy of Afghan forces was ambushed Sunday as it made its way from neighboring Paktia province to Ghazni. They were hunkered down about 80 kilometers (50 miles) from Ghazni, it said.

The assault on Ghazni began as the head of the Taliban's political office was wrapping up a rare diplomatic foray in Uzbekistan. Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanikzai held meetings with Uzbekistan's Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Kamilov and other officials.

The Taliban's four-day trip

to Uzbekistan, which ended Friday, was the strongest sign yet of the group's growing regional clout, while the Ghazni assault has highlighted its military prowess.

Gen. Sharif Yaftali, the Afghan military's chief of staff, said Sunday that all strategic and government offices in Ghazni are still under government control. He said the insurgents were holed up in residential areas, and predicted that Ghazni would be cleared and the highway to Kabul reopened in a couple days.

But the Taliban appeared to have seized large parts of the city and held them despite a blistering assault by Afghan troops backed by U.S. helicopter gunships, fighter jets and drones. The Taliban have uploaded videos on social media showing captured army vehicles and insurgents walking around and chatting with each other on empty, quiet streets.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani is said to be considering a cease-fire offer for the upcoming Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha. A three-day holiday cease-fire in June brought rare quiet to much of the country, but the Taliban rejected a government request to extend it.

Instead, they appear intent on seeking a position of strength ahead of expected talks with the United States, which has been at war in Afghanistan for nearly 17 years.

The Taliban say they met with Alice Wells, the top U.S. diplomat for South Asia, in Qatar last month for preliminary talks. Washington neither confirmed nor denied the meeting, but acknowledged Wells was in Qatar, where the Taliban maintain an office. The Taliban said they expect another round of talks.

Andrew Wilder, vice president of Asia programs at the U.S. Institute of Peace, said the Taliban's attack on Ghazni was "a well-timed effort to demonstrate their military power to strengthen their negotiating position prior to another cease-fire and in the event of peace talks."

O'Donnell, the U.S. military spokesman, said the Taliban achieved nothing from the Ghazni assault "except another eye-catching, but inconsequential headline."

But Daniel Markey, a professor at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, said U.S. policymakers should be concerned.

World

Aid group: Ships not willing to save Mediterranean migrants

ROME (AP)—Migrants in distress at sea have told their rescuers that several ships passed them by without offering assistance, a European aid group said Sunday while seeking safe harbor for a rescue vessel with 141 migrants aboard.

SOS Mediterranée in a statement said that due to the recent refusal of Italy and Malta to let rescue vessels carrying migrants dock, ships might be now unwilling to get involved fearing they will be stranded with migrants aboard and denied a port to disembark them.

On Friday the group's chartered ship Aquarius, which it operates in partnership with Doctors Without Borders, rescued 141 people in waters off Libya. Of these, 25 were found adrift on a small wooden boat that had no motor and was believed to have been at sea for about 35 hours, the group said. The

other 116 people, including 67 unaccompanied minors, were rescued later that day, it said.

Nearly three-quarters of those rescued originate from Somalia and Eritrea. Many migrants recounted how they were "held in inhumane conditions in Libya," where human traffickers are based, the aid group said.

It added that Libya's rescue coordination authorities wouldn't provide the Aquarius with "a place of safety" and asked it to request safe harbor from another country's authorities.

The Aquarius was sailing north in the Mediterranean Sunday in hopes of receiving docking permission from another country.

SOS Mediterranée said that "in a disturbing development, rescued people on board told out teams they encountered five different ships which did not offer them assistance



A migrant rests at the dock of the port of Algeciras, southern Spain, after being rescued by Spain's Maritime Rescue Service in the Strait of Gibraltar on Wednesday, Aug. 1, 2018.

AP

WORLD BRIEFS

US ambassador urges UK to back Trump on Iran nuke deal

LONDON (AP)—The U.S. ambassador in London is urging Britain to back President Donald Trump in pulling out of the Iran nuclear agreement, saying a united front is the best way to persuade Tehran to change its course. Ambassador Robert Wood Johnson wrote in the Sunday Telegraph that "we are asking global Britain to use its considerable diplomatic power and influence and join us as we lead a concerted global effort towards a genuinely comprehensive agreement." Trump pulled out of the deal in May and last week began reinstating economic sanctions against Iran that were eased in exchange for concessions on Iran's nuclear program. The U.K., France, Russia, China, Germany and the European Union, which also signed the deal, have criticized Trump's decision and continue to back the agreement with Iran.

Suspected jihadis kill 6 in east Burkina Faso

OUAGADOUGOU, Burkina Faso (AP)—Burkina Faso State TV reports that five gendarmes and one civilian have been killed between the rural communes of Boungou and Ougarou in the nation's far east. It reports the vehicle hit an explosive device late Saturday while gendarmes were escorting mining workers to their extraction site. This comes as Islamic extremists are moving to the region, where they can hide in the thick forested areas, and are launching more attacks on security forces. Governor Ousmane Traore said his eastern territory was under threat by young men who had received extremist training in Mali and have now returned to launch a katiba, or brigade. Earlier this month, suspected jihadis destroyed a vehicle while trying to free detained extremists. In February they attacked and killed a policeman, wounding two others.

Wildfire forces Greek villages on island of Evia to evacuate

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Greece's fire service says a wildfire raging on the island of Evia, in central Greece, has forced them to evacuate two villages and a monastery. No casualties have been reported so far. Traffic on the main road that runs across the length of the 180-kilometer (110-mile) island has been stopped near the fire, police say. They urge people wishing to drive to Athens from northern Evia to use ferries to the mainland, which will operate throughout the night. Normally, drivers would cross a bridge at the narrowest point separating Evia from the mainland, which is south of the fire's location. Greece's most devastating wildfire, at a seaside resort east of Athens on July 23, killed 94 people, with several more hospitalized in serious condition.

before they were rescued by Aquarius."

Aboard Aquarius is Doctors Without Borders project coordinator, Aloys Vimard, who elaborated.

"It seems the very principle of rendering assistance to persons in distress at sea is now at stake. Ships might be unwilling to respond to those in distress due to the high risk of being stranded and denied a place of safety," the statement quoted Vimard as saying.

SOS Mediterranée said many of those aboard were extremely weak and malnourished. Those rescued in recent years have said they receive

scanty rations while kept in Libya to await the opportunity to leave on human smugglers' unseaworthy boats.

"What is of utmost importance is that the survivors are brought to a place of safety without delay, where their basic needs can be met and where they can be protected from abuse," the group quoted Nick Romaniuk, its search and rescue coordinator as saying.

In June, Aquarius was forced to sail north for days with more than 600 migrants to Spain after Italy and Malta refused it docking permission. Since then, other private rescue vessels have had to wait for days until some

country agreed to let migrants disembark.

Italy's new populist government has vowed that no more private aid ships will bring migrants to Italian shores.

Although arrivals in Italy of rescued migrants smuggled from Libya have sharply dropped off this year compared to previous years, some 600,000 reached Italian ports in the last few years. Italy demands fellow European Union countries take the asylum-seekers from Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

The tiny EU island nation of Malta says it can't handle large numbers of migrants.

Cargo and other commercial

vessels often have plucked migrants to safety from deflating rubber dinghies and rickety wooden boats. But with Italy's crackdown, commercial ships risk being blocked for days at sea, unable to carry out their business. Recently a support ship for an offshore oil platform was left in limbo for days after rescuing migrants.

SOS Mediterranée said the Libya rescue coordination center didn't inform it about migrant boats in distress despite knowing the Aquarius was nearby.

"It was extremely fortunate that we spotted these boats in distress ourselves" on Friday, the group said.

Mexico's president-elect proposes Cancun-Palenque train

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexico's president-elect wants to bring tourism revenues to remote and forgotten stretches of Mexico, but some are scratching their heads at his main proposal: to build a \$3.2 billion train that would run from the resort of Cancun to the Mayan ruins of Palenque, 520 miles (830 kilometers) across the Yucatan peninsula.

The route is dotted by low jungle, wildlife reserves, pre-Hispanic archaeological sites, wetlands and underground rivers that can suddenly cave in. It would take years to build, and soak up scarce money, just to reach ruin sites like Calakmul, which now gets only about 35,000 visitors a year—the number better-known sites like Chichen Itza have in a week.

For those who like the plan proposed by Andres Manuel

Lopez Obrador, it's all about getting people off the beaten track — the heavily travelled tourism route of Cancun-Riviera Maya-Chichen Itza-Xcaret visited by millions of tourists per year.

"Tourists today prefer other types of tourism projects that are more in contact with nature. ... They are showing less interest in the coast," said Vicente Ferreyra, a Cancun-based consultant whose Sustentur company specializes in sustainable tourism. "They are turning more toward the jungle, and there is an opportunity to diversify for markets that don't just want sun and sand."

So, imagine if you could hop on a train at the Cancun airport and step off two hours later in one of the communities at the edge of the Sian Ka'an nature reserve, south of Tulum, where the coast turns

into lagoons and mangroves.

Villages like Muyil are offering tours such as floating down fresh-water canals dug by the Mayas, visiting local pre-Hispanic ruins, seeing local craftsmen and sampling regional foods.

Few doubt that the first stretch of proposed train — from Cancun through the Riviera Maya to Tulum — would be heavily used. Almost 7 million international tourists visit this stretch of coast every year, many of them arriving at the Cancun airport and then taking buses or driving down the coast.

While resorts have been popping up south of Cancun since the 1990s, most hotel workers still live in Cancun, which was founded in 1974. So huge numbers of tourism workers could also use the train to get to their jobs, a trip

that can currently take them an hour and a half or more.

But it's not clear whether the train would have stops at Playa del Carmen or other busy resorts that would be destinations for the tourists and workers. The initial plan shows it making its only Maya Riviera stop in Tulum before heading farther south.

It is the second, southern stretch from Tulum to the unpicturesque Maya town of Felipe Carrillo Puerto, just southwest of the Sian Ka'an environmental reserve, then on to Bacalar, the state capital of Chetumal, Calakmul and Palenque that raises more questions. Some see it as an expensive folly. There is little developed tourism infrastructure until one gets around the Bacalar fresh-water lagoon. And the route from there west is practically undeveloped.

Focus

US goes after naturalized immigrants with criminal records

By ADIEL KAPLAN
MIAMI HERALD

M IAMI — The United States government has long used its power to revoke citizenship in the rarest of cases, going after the likes of war criminals, child rapists and terrorist funders.

Norma Borgono is none of those. She came to the U.S. from Peru in 1989 volunteers weekly at church, raised two children on a \$500-a-week salary and has a rare kidney disorder. But a week after her baby granddaughter came home from the hospital, Borgono received a letter from the U.S. government: The Justice Department was suing to “denaturalize” her as part of a push by the Trump administration to revoke citizenship from people who committed criminal offenses before they became citizens.

“I don’t know what’s going to happen if she goes to Peru,” said her daughter, Urpi Rios. “We have nothing there.”

Borgono, 63, a Miami resident for 28 years, is being targeted based on her minor role in a \$24 million fraud scheme

in the past decade. As the secretary of export company Texon Inc., she prepared paperwork for her boss, who pocketed money from doctored loan applications filed with the U.S. Export-Import Bank.

When the feds caught wind of the scheme, Borgono cooperated. She never made any money beyond her regular salary and helped the FBI make a case that put her former boss in prison for four years. On May 17, 2012, Borgono took a plea deal and was sentenced to one year of house arrest, four years of probation and \$5,000 restitution.

Working two jobs, she paid off her restitution and her sentence was reduced. Two years after she put it all behind her, Borgono received the letter notifying her that the U.S. government wanted to take away her citizenship.

The stated reason was that Borgono became a U.S. citizen after the fraud scheme started. Although she had not yet been charged when she applied for citizenship, the Justice Department is arguing that she lied by not divulging her criminal activity on her application.

Rios said the family was shocked by the letter. They had no idea this kind of case was even possible.

“Had the threat to her citi-

zenship been brought up,” during the original case, she said, “we would have gone to trial or found some way to fight it.”

Borgono is one of thousands of citizens and legal residents of the United States who may now be subject to denaturalization and deportation for past offenses, some of them committed decades ago.

“I’m worried that people

who have been citizens for a long time will now be targeted for denaturalization, and that the effort to defend against a federal denaturalization claim is so expensive that people will just give up,” said Matthew Hoppock, a Kansas City immigration attorney who has been tracking the changes in denaturalization policy.

“When a denaturalization lawsuit is filed, the defendant’s options are to fight it or be deported.”

The Department of Homeland Security plans to spend more than \$200 million to look for citizenship fraud and green-card fraud by perma-

nent residents. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement will hire 300 agents and scores of additional staffers under the agency’s proposed fiscal year 2019 budget.

The main thrust of the push is to track down people who gamed the deportation system: those who were ordered deported but later gained citizenship or legal residency under different identities.

Gaming the immigration system is nothing new, including in South Florida, where marriage fraud schemes have flourished over the years. Immigration officials have long made catching those frauds a priority and have regularly denaturalized people convicted in such cases.

Borgono did not lie about her identity. But the government’s case against her is built on the same underlying argument: that she did not disclose a previous crime on her citi-

zenship application.

The push extends beyond ICE. Another DHS agency, Citizenship and Immigration Services, is also devoting new resources to the effort, opening an office in Los Angeles specifically to work on such cases. It is hiring several dozen lawyers and immigration officers to staff it, Citizenship and Immigration Services Director L. Francis Cissna told the Associated Press. Since January 2017, staffers have been working at the new office, which the agency says will be the central office for reviewing potential denaturalization cases.

From 1990 to 2017, only 305 denaturalization cases were pursued. Under the initiative, which began in 2008, but more cases have been brought since President Donald Trump took office. Immigration officials have already referred more than 100 cases to the Justice Department. A January news release said the officials plan to refer an estimated 1,600 more cases.

The number of cases doubled from 15 in 2016, the final year of the Obama administration, to 30 in 2017, and 2018 is on track to equal or pass 2017 numbers. Last year’s caseload was the largest since the early 2000s, when the number

AP
In this July 3, 2018, file photo, a Pakistani recruit, 22, who was recently discharged from the U.S. Army, holds an American flag as he poses for a picture.

of cases rose in response to a backlog in checking naturalization applications.

Catching people who skirt immigration rules has become more efficient with the Homeland Security fingerprint database, which can do in seconds what might have once taken an analyst a full day. That database is incomplete, and as DHS works to digitize its backlog of old, paper fingerprint records through a project called Historical Fingerprint Enrollment, it is finding cases of people who were once ordered deported and later became citizens or legal residents under different identities.

As such double-identity cases are found, the administration is moving to denaturalize those citizens, sometimes based on a fraud committed decades ago.

“In terms of the aggressive attitude toward denaturalization, it is a very different day,” said Muzaffar Chishti, a lawyer with the nonpartisan Migration Policy Institute.

The new ICE staff members will review files from more than 700,000 deportation orders, looking for fingerprints with matches elsewhere in the database.

The 700,000 files come from a larger collection of deportation orders going back to 1990. They were selected using an algorithm that excluded people less likely to

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FOCUS

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have committed subsequent immigration fraud based on, for example, advanced age at the time of deportation, according to Justice Department officials. Several thousand have already been flagged for further review.

When a denaturalization lawsuit is filed, the defendant's options are to fight it or be deported. Rios said that the only settlement offered to her mother was to voluntarily renounce her citizenship and move to Peru. They believe that would be a death sentence.

Borgono and her children have a rare kidney disease called Alport syndrome that eventually leads to the loss of kidney function. They no longer have any close family or ties to Peru because Borgono's mother and brother died from the disease decades ago. Borgono has been on the Miami transplant list for two years, and Rios is afraid that her mother won't be able to get proper care, let alone a transplant, if she is forced to go back to Peru.

"For everything that she did wrong, that she cooperated on, that she paid her debt to society for, now they want to send her away to die over there?" Rios said.

Borgono, whose 64th birthday is this week, is just a year away from retirement. She works as a secretary for a company not in the export industry. With the birth of her first grandchild, she was looking forward to helping raise Isabel.

The family's story is a familiar immigrant tale. Borgono came to the United States legally in 1989 with her 13-year-old son and 7-year-old daughter. She worked long hours cleaning offices and doing other odd jobs until she became a secretary. The citizenship of her now-adult children is not in jeopardy.

"I love this country; it embraced us," Rios said. "It was such a proud moment for all of us to become citizens."

Borgono was a single mother. Her children went to college; her son becoming an architect and her daughter the vice president of human resources at a TV station. They helped their mother apply for citizenship in 2007. And then, in 2009, the feds showed up at her house.

At her sentencing in 2012, the judge was sympathetic to Borgono. She had not profited from the scheme and helped the authorities bring the case against her boss. As a testament to her character, members of her community, including her priest, submitted to the court letters of support and photos of her volunteering.

In March, Rios was due to give birth. A week before she went to the hospital, she lost her job at the TV station, along with her insurance. The baby had complications and stayed at the hospital for two weeks. A week after Isabel came home, finally healthy, Borgono received notice of the lawsuit against her.

"I think it's a misuse of their discretion to file a denaturalization suit against Norma," said Borgono's lawyer, Pat Dray, who defended her in the original fraud case. "Especially in light of the fact that she cooperated with the government and they were able to use her to bring a case against her former boss."

On the same day it sued Borgono, the Justice Department also filed a denaturalization lawsuit against her former boss, Guillermo Mondino.

Immigration activists and lawyers are worried about the ease with which citizenship can be stripped from someone like Borgono.

"The finality that came with citizenship in the past is now gone," Chishti said.

Catching old offenders this way, ICE officials say, sends a message of deterrence for future offenders.

"As easy as it was for the government to be defrauded in the past, it is now very easy for the government to identify fraudsters," said John Tobon, deputy special agent in charge at Homeland Security Investigations in Miami. "So it is now kind of turning the tables, with the hope that people will say, 'If my risk of getting caught is now almost certain, I will choose not to take the risk.'"

The ICE budget says that there will be 1,184 employees working specifically on benefit fraud cases, including 512 new positions. Tobon said the new hires are part of an agency-wide push after a five-year hiring freeze.

So far, most of the cases filed by the Trump administration have been against people who entered the country illegally, but the pursuit of individuals for other crimes, like Borgono's case, is also picking up.

The courts have long been the bottleneck in revoking citizenship. The Justice Department has rarely pushed such cases and for decades generally did not accept most cases of double-identity fraud flagged by immigration officials. It saved its limited resources in the area for more egregious cases, according to a 2016 report by the Department of Homeland Security's inspector general.

In 2015, the Justice Department agreed with Homeland Security to widen the scope of denaturalization cases to

include naturalized citizens who had been given security clearances or positions of public trust, or who had criminal histories. That led to a sharp increase in referrals in 2016, the report said.

The current effort to digitize and examine old fingerprint files was a natural outgrowth of that report, said Michael Bars, a spokesman for Citizenship and Immigration Services.

The referrals have increased since then. ICE expects that to continue in response to Trump's third and fourth executive orders, issued during his first week in office. Those two orders directed that a wall be built along the U.S.-Mexico border and that sanctuary cities comply with efforts to round up illegal immigrants.

The citizenship application contains the question, "Have you EVER committed, assisted in committing, or attempted to commit, a crime or offense for which you were NOT arrested?" (emphasis original). Lying on that question makes applicants vulnerable to having their citizenship revoked, and is the basis of most denaturalization cases.

Last summer, the Supreme Court heard a case about how broadly the government could use answers to that question to revoke citizenship. The U.S. attorney argued that it could for any crime, even something as small as driving 5 mph over the speed limit, an example provided by Chief Justice John Roberts as a crime he had committed but never had been arrested for.

During the hearing, Justice Stephen Breyer said he found it "rather surprising that the government of the United States thinks" the naturalization law should be "interpreted in a way that would throw into doubt the citizenship of vast percentages of all naturalized citizens."

The court ruled unanimously that only material offenses need to be disclosed.

How "material offenses" are interpreted is beginning to play out in denaturalization cases around the country, as decades-long residents find themselves unexpectedly in court.

In a statement, Citizenship and Immigration Services said: "Nobody who obtained U.S. citizenship by deliberately assuming a false identity will be surprised to learn they are being referred to the Justice Department for denaturalization proceedings. USCIS screens for deliberate acts of fraud relating to forgery or the use of false identities, and we go to great lengths to ensure individuals aren't susceptible to instances of error, misunderstanding, or special circumstances."

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW: 2019 Toyota Corolla hatchback is a fun alternative to the small crossover



TNS

2019 Toyota Corolla Hatchback in XSE trim in Blue Flame paint pictured in Arlington Heights, Ill., on July 11, 2018.

By ROBERT DUFFER
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Chances are you've owned or ridden in a Toyota Corolla. Maybe you've forgotten. The world's best-selling car has done a historic job of blending in. That's not the case with the 2019 Toyota Corolla hatchback. Especially in Blue Flame.

Missing this paint job would be like missing a rain-bow. It's bright and arresting, and the return of the hatchback to the Corolla family comes at the perfect time in a world awash in crossovers.

Toyota had a similar hatch last year in the Corolla iM, but that was a vestige of the discontinued Scion brand. The 2019 Corolla hatchback is all new and reflective of Toyota's makeover from boring appliance cars to something — edgier, if not sexier. And it comes loaded with standard technology to appeal to that youthful demographic or to boomers who have come to rely on Toyota's reliable quality.

Toyota's bold X-wing grille, with squinting eyes and a gaping mouth, looks good. On larger vehicles it seems to be something it is not: sporty. The hatch rides low, and with wheels pushed to the edges it looks much better than its taller sibling, the compact crossover.

The tester came in Toyota's sportiest XSE trim, with 18-inch alloy wheels and a front-wheel-drive powertrain that is not quite as sporty as it looks. The 168-horsepower four-cylinder engine could use a boost from a turbocharger, which is something Toyota has avoided while the rest of the industry adopts turbo fours. The horsepower is competitive, but the 151 pound-feet of torque lags top-trim segment leaders such as the Volkswagen Golf and Honda Civic.

Brace yourself — Toyota also uses a CVT, which has never not once been known

for sport. But this is no ordinary CVT. It essentially has a first launch gear you can hammer up to about 20 mph before it moves to the bands and pulley of the CVT. This "dynamic-shift CVT" then has a 10-speed, umm, simulator that can be drawn out for higher revs with small paddle shifters. A sport mode also enhances more urgent driving. It does not drone like other CVTs. It would have been fun to test the six-speed manual (\$1,100 less), but the vast majority will opt for the CVT.

It's not fast, but it's not dull. And we averaged 33 mpg. The handling was pleasantly surprising. It can be pushed, and the uncluttered design of the cabin puts the driver in a pushing state of mind.

The interior is where the XSE stands out. The light gray and black trim pieces soften the sharp blue exterior, and the climate controls are one narrow line of buttons. The 8-inch touch screen is embedded like an iPad in the dash, but it has a volume and tuner knob and a super clear backup camera. The steering wheel controls and 7-inch display in the instrument cluster let you avoid the touch screen for the most part.

Toyota Safety Sense comes standard. The suite of

advanced driver assistance systems such as adaptive cruise control, automatic emergency braking and lane keep assist would cost anywhere from \$1,000 to \$2,000 from other automakers.

It includes all the dings, pings and zings for free as well. If you go over the speed limit, you get a ding. If your passengers don't buckle up, ping. If you leave hands off the wheel long enough, zing.

For about 15 seconds, the car will drive itself as long as it can read lines in the road. The tech does a pretty good job, though at one point over a bridge it swayed far to one side of the lane, then far to the other before righting itself. In construction with zagging lanes, we were more comfortable having hands on the wheel, which is pretty common for such advanced driver assistance systems. Otherwise TSS works really well and you can't beat the price.

If only Toyota invested as much in its outdated, frustrating Entune infotainment system. It's one of the worst systems on the market; try using the voice commands to "Call Akio Toyoda" and tell him to scrap it, and it'll show a list of three-digit numbers to call for any contact. The layout is cramped even on full screen mode; the buttons flanking the larger screen feel like something on a dollar store toy. Hate Entune. But it finally comes with Apple CarPlay, which is a relief.

There's not much to hate about the Corolla hatchback. The front is spacious, the rear seats fit two teens without complaint, and we were able to fit four carry-ons in the back. There are sportier hatchbacks such as the Volkswagen Golf, Mazda3, Hyundai Elantra GT and Honda Civic, but the Corolla undercuts them on price with a loaded package. It's enough to stand out amid crossovers, hatchbacks and fading memories alike.

NUTS & BOLTS

2019 Toyota Corolla Hatchback XSE

- Vehicle type: Hatchback
- Base price: \$19,990 (SE trim)
- As tested: \$24,090 (excluding \$920 destination)
- Mpg: 30 city, 38 highway
- Engine: 168-horsepower 2-liter four-cylinder
- Transmission: Dynamic-shift CVT
- Parting shot: Value play with Civic, Golf, and Mazda3

Life & Style

Trump allies, security experts alarmed by Omarosa recordings

By JILL COLVIN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BRIDGEWATER, N.J. (AP)—Former presidential adviser Omarosa Manigault Newman is drawing fire from President Donald Trump's allies and national security experts for secret recordings she made at the White House, including her firing by chief of staff John Kelly in the high-security Situation Room.

Manigault Newman said Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press" that she surreptitiously recorded a number of conversations in the White House for her own protection. Parts of her conversation with Kelly were played on the air. Critics denounced the recordings as a serious breach of ethics and security.

"Who in their right mind thinks it's appropriate to secretly record the White House chief of staff in the Situation Room?" tweeted Ronna McDaniel, chairwoman of the Republican National Committee.

In the recording, which



Manigault Newman quotes extensively in her new book, "Unhinged," Kelly can be heard saying that he wants

to talk with Manigault Newman about leaving the White House. The Associated Press independently listened to the

recording of the conversation.

"It's come to my attention over the last few months that there's been some pretty, in my opinion, significant integrity issues related to you," Kelly is heard saying, citing her use of government vehicles and "money issues and other things" that he compares to offenses that could lead to a court martial in the military.

"If we make this a friendly departure ... you can look at your time here in the White House as a year of service to the nation and then you can go on without any type of difficulty in the future relative to your reputation," he tells Manigault Newman, adding: "There are some serious legal issues that have been violated and you're open to some legal action that we hope, we think,

In this Feb. 14, 2017, file photo, Omarosa Manigault-Newman, then an aide to President Donald Trump, watches during a meeting with parents and teachers in the Roosevelt Room of the White House in Washington. AP

we can control."

Manigault Newman said she viewed the conversation as a "threat" and defended her decision to covertly record it and other White House conversations.

"If I didn't have these recordings, no one in America would believe me," she said.

The response from the White House was stinging. "The very idea a staff member would sneak a recording device into the White House Situation Room, shows a blatant disregard for our national security - and then to brag about it on national television further proves the lack of character and integrity of this disgruntled former White House employee," press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said in a statement.

The Situation Room is a Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility, or SCIF, where the nation's most consequential foreign policy decisions are made, and staff are not permitted to bring in cellphones or other recording devices.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Audiobook this fall reveals Rowling's magical influences

NEW YORK (AP)—An audiobook coming out this fall will reveal some influences behind the wizardry of Harry Potter. The audio producer and seller Audible Inc. announced Thursday that "Harry Potter: A History of Magic" will go on sale Oct. 4. Narrated by Natalie Dormer of "Game of Thrones" fame, the book will feature "hidden stories" about magic and tell of the manuscripts, myths and other artifacts that J.K. Rowling drew upon for her blockbuster fantasy series. The audio work will be published by Rowling's Pottermore Publishing and can be pre-ordered at www.audible.com/historyof-magic. It also serves as a companion to a Potter exhibition that ran last year at the British Museum and will be seen this fall at the New-York Historical Society.

Audible is owned by Amazon.com.

Marilyn Monroe dresses, personal photos going up for auction

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Dresses that belonged to Marilyn Monroe along with an autographed photo thanking the executive who launched her Hollywood career will go on display before heading to auction. Auction house Profiles in History announced Wednesday that the items will be exhibited in Beverly Hills starting Aug. 18. An auction will follow in late October. They include a photograph that Monroe signed to 20th Century Fox executive Ben Lyon that reads: "Dear Ben, You found me, named me and believed in me when no one else did. My thanks and love forever. Marilyn" Born Norma Jeane Mortenson, Monroe changed her name after coming to Hollywood. She used her mother's maiden name Monroe, while Lyon provided the "Marilyn."

The photo was taken during the filming of "The Seven Year Itch," the 1955 movie that provided history's lasting image of Monroe, standing over a subway grate and holding down

her white dress.

Photographer says Bill Murray harassed him at restaurant

OAK BLUFFS, Mass. (AP)—A photographer says actor Bill Murray slammed him against a door and poured a glass of water over him while he was taking photos of a band at a Massachusetts restaurant. Peter Simon tells The Boston Globe he was on an assignment for The Martha's Vineyard Times at Lola's in Oak Bluffs on Wednesday when Murray accosted him, swore at him and threatened him. Simon, who is singer Carly Simon's brother, said the band invited him and he was not there to take pictures of Murray. A police report says Murray told police Simon was taking pictures of him. The report says Murray was "visibly upset" and said Simon was harassing him. No one was charged. Murray's entertainment lawyer didn't immediately respond to a request for comment Friday.

Fox's Laura Ingraham: I wasn't talking about race

NEW YORK (AP)—Fox News Channel's Laura Ingraham is disavowing the support of white nationalists and claims her views about the nation's demographic changes have been distorted, although that hasn't quieted critics who see bigotry in her words. Her commentary this week leading into the one-year anniversary of a white nationalist demonstration that turned violent in Charlottesville, Virginia, has also drawn attention to how Fox speaks to an audience that is overwhelmingly white. Ingraham said on Wednesday that "in major parts of the country, it does seem that the America we know and love doesn't exist anymore. Massive demographic changes have been foisted on the American people and they're changes that none of us ever voted for and most of us don't like." As she spoke, film on the screen behind her depicted people scaling what appeared to be a giant border wall or slipping under a fence.

Fox News to White House: Bill Shine is Trump's new image man

BRIDGEWATER, N.J. (AP)—For years he dutifully carried out Roger Ailes' orders, earning himself the nickname "the Butler" at Fox News.

Now, Bill Shine is serving the same role under President Donald Trump.

The former news executive, who was formally brought into the White House last month as deputy chief of staff for communications, has yet to move into a permanent office or bring on his own



Shine

staff. But he is already putting his mark on the West Wing, clashing with reporters, improving the production quality of White House events and trying to shape the message of an administration whose communication strategy has always seemed haphazardly dictated by tweet.

Shine is most often described by people close to the White House as a well-respected professional with the age and experience to be trusted by a president who is

uniquely obsessed with his image and coverage.

"I think that Bill commands the respect that is needed on such a priority based on his management experience and knowledge of the media," said Sean Spicer, the former White House press secretary and communications director. Shine, he said, "entered the White House with the respect, maturity and experience that is more of a peer than a staffer."

After years working with and managing cable news stars with outsized egos, Shine understands how to work with someone like the president, including the most effective ways to offer guidance or pushback.

And unlike many failed hires who have entered the West Wing with guns blazing, threatening mass firings, Shine appears to have, at least so far, succeeded in not ruffling his colleagues' feathers—though he is widely expected to add his own staff and has been

conducting interviews.

"He's about making sure we're moving in the right direction," said Mercedes Schlapp, the White House director of strategic communications, who said Shine is universally well-liked by senior staff and has eased, not increased, tensions.

But Shine's arrival also has coincided with a perceived escalation in friction with the press, including an incident last month when a CNN reporter was barred from covering an open-press event because Trump didn't like the questions she'd shouted earlier in the day, when she was serving as a representative of the television networks.

Kaitlan Collins said she was called into Shine's office, where Shine and White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders informed her she would not be welcome at the next event because they'd deemed her questions inappropriate. The move sparked immediate outcry from media groups and organizations, including Shine's former employer, Fox News.

More than 50 years into career, Rod Stewart not slowing down

By JOHN CARUCCI
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP)—More than fifty years into his career, Rod Stewart shows no sign of slowing down.

When he's not on tour, he's busy at home chasing his two young sons, Aiden and Alastair, around the yard. And on Sept. 28, he will release his 30th studio album, "Blood Red Roses."

While known for writing sultry songs—from "Tonight's the Night (Gonna Be Alright)" to "You're In My Heart (The Final Acclaim)"—Stewart's also not afraid to tackle social issues. In 1976, he broke new ground with "The Killing of Georgie (Part I and II)," about his friend who was killed because of his sexual identity.

Stewart dismisses the idea of being courageous writing the first mainstream pop song to deal with gay bashing.

"It was a true story and it's much easier to write about the truth," Stewart said about the

iconic song.

The 73-year old crooner gets serious again with his new album's first single, "Didn't I," which deals with teenage substance abuse from the parent's perspective.

In an interview with The Associated Press this week, the Grammy-winning singer discussed his longevity in the music business, what he thinks of the #MeToo movement and maintaining his signature hairstyle.

AP: That hair is just amazing. How do you keep it up?

Stewart: It's pretty good, isn't it? I don't know. I think I've just been lucky, you know, with the hair. It gets a lot of manipulation, you know, because I always have to keep it (up). When I'm doing a show, I have to go and dry it. ...I cut it every two weeks. No, but other than that I just think I'm lucky.

AP: You move pretty well onstage for a guy in his seventies...

Stewart: Soccer has always

been a passion of mine. You know, I played it, read about it, watched it all my life, and I still play a little bit.

And I do work out a lot, I must admit. And that keeps me fit for onstage. How long can I go on? That's the million-dollar question. You know, I enjoy it. I get excited about it, and as long as that exists, I think I can carry on for another three weeks (laughs).

AP: Your two sons were onstage with you at your Madison Square Garden show this week. Do you always take them on the road?

Stewart: They don't come on the stage every night. Only when they're on tour (with me in the summer). And they pester me. The older one is getting a bit too old for it now. But the young one loves it. You know, he loves it. But having younger kids, I've got eight kids all together, certainly does keep

you on your toes, and they, especially the youngest one, he's just so cute. He amuses

me all day long. It makes me smile. And that's longevity in itself, I think being able to smile all day.

AP: You've always been a fan of the ladies, do you consider

yourself a.

Stewart: Sex symbol? Now I hate that word. ...I never purposely went out to attract the opposite sex. I mean, it just comes with the music, you know, the music is very sensual and vibrant. So, if I do something suggestive onstage it's merely by accident.

AP: "The Killing of Georgie" was bold for its time. Do you feel it helped change attitudes in some small way?

Stewart: Yeah, yeah,



Stewart

'The Meg' chomps \$44.5M, 'BlackKkKlansman' opens strong

NEW YORK (AP)—Adding to Hollywood's sizzling summer, the shark thriller "The Meg" opened well above expectations with an estimated \$44.5 million in ticket sales, while Spike Lee had his best debut in a decade.

"The Meg" had been forecast by some analysts for closer to half that total. An American-Chinese co-production between Warner Bros. and China's Gravity Pictures, it also debuted well overseas, taking in \$50.3 million in China and totaling \$96.8 million internationally, according to studio estimates Sunday.

With an international cast led by Jason Statham and featuring Li Bingbing, Rainn Wilson and Winston Chao, "The Meg" cost at least \$130 million to make.

Following hits like "The Shallows" and "47 Meters Down," the shark movie—43 years after Steven Spielberg's "Jaws"—has been showing surprising bite at the box office. Jeff Goldstein, distribution chief for Warner Bros., said late summer was ideal timing for "The Meg."

"This was a fun, dumb popcorn movie that just looked interesting to the public everywhere around the world," Goldstein said. "We dug our heels in and said: This is the right time to go. The last movie, as kids are going back to school. All the big blockbusters have played off. We're in a space by ourselves."

Traditionally a sleepy time at the box office, August has helped cement a comeback summer for the movie business. Weekend business was up 25 percent from last year, and the summer is up 11.3 per-

cent, according to comScore. For Warner Bros., which on Wednesday will release the highly touted "Crazy Rich Asians," "The Meg" is the studio's best opening this year, besting even Spielberg's own "Ready Player One."

AP: The industry has changed. Is it no longer sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll?

Stewart: Obviously, I'm not, you know, sweet 16 anymore, and there are things I have to preserve, namely my voice. I really have to look after that. So, as I said, I was never really a druggy-type person because I played football and I was always getting up in the morning playing football and so that side hasn't changed a great deal for me.

AP: But things are chang-

ing, especially with the #MeToo movement.

Stewart: Well that's true. There were a lot of women throwing themselves at us in the '70s and '80s, and they were good old times, really great times. But, you know, the #MeToo movement is long overdue. But I must admit I've never had trouble, you know, entertaining women. I've always enjoyed the chase, actually. I'd never thrown myself on any woman. You know, I enjoyed romance and then the chase.

AP: Do you ever look back and go, "Wow, what a career?"

Stewart: Every day. Every day. I never take it for granted. I really don't. You know, it's just the best job in the world. I know that's an old cliché, but it really is. (President Donald) Trump thinks he's got a good job. I've really got a great job.

Red Sox old-timer's memorabilia going up for sale



This image provided by Saco River Auctions in Biddeford, Maine, shows a photograph that belonged to baseball great Harry Lord. The 1910 photograph shows a group of American League all-stars, including Ty Cobb, front row, far left, prior to a game at Shibe Park in Philadelphia. It will sold at an upcoming auction in Biddeford.

BIDDEFORD, Maine (AP)—Some items belonging to one of the Boston Red Sox's early members—when the team was known as the Boston Americans—are coming up for sale.

Third baseman Harry Lord played for the Americans and then the Red Sox, becoming one of the first captains in 1910, before he switched colors to the White Sox.

His items that go up for auction on Wednesday include a 6-foot-long panoramic photo of the Red Sox and Washington Nationals playing on Patriots Day at the Huntington Avenue Grounds in Boston in 1910, two years before Fenway Park came to be. There's also a photo of Lord and Hall of Famers like Ty Cobb, Nap Lajoie and Tris Speaker at

Shibe Park, later known as Connie Mack Stadium, in Philadelphia.

Other items include baseball cards featuring the Maine native, a plaque for the Maine Baseball Hall of Fame, and other baseball memorabilia, said Troy Thibodeau from Saco River Auctions.

In his day, Lord was known for speed, among other things.

"He was considered one of the fastest men in baseball at the time," Thibodeau said. Lord was once clocked running from home plate to first base in about 3½ seconds, which is speedy even by modern standards.

Lord's playing career came to an end after he was released from the White Sox and switched to the Federal League, which later was disbanded. Lord reportedly was

blacklisted by the American and National leagues.

After spending some time coaching, Lord returned to Maine where he lived in South Portland, owned a grocery store and was elected to the Maine House as a Republican, said Angela Goebel-Bain, curator of historical collections at the Maine State Museum in Augusta.

The items from Lord's estate were passed on in his family and ended up for sale when his grandson died last year in Maine, Thibodeau said.

Lord was born in Porter, in western Maine, in 1882 and played baseball and football at Bridgton Academy and at Bates College, Goebel-Bain said. He left behind a wife, son and daughter when he died in 1948. He was buried in Kezar Falls.

1. "The Meg," \$44.5 million (\$96.8 million international).
2. "Mission: Impossible—Fallout," \$20 million.
3. "Christopher Robin," \$12.4 million.
4. "Slender Man," \$11.3 million.
5. "BlackKkKlansman," \$10.8 million.
6. "The Spy Who Dumped Me," \$6.6 million.
7. "Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again," \$5.8 million.
8. "The Equalizer 2," \$5.5 million.
9. "Hotel Transylvania 3," \$5.1 million.
10. "Ant-Man and the Wasp," \$4 million.

After two weeks at no. 1, "Mission: Impossible—Fallout" slid to second place in its third weekend with \$20 million. The Paramount Pictures release starring Tom Cruise has pulled in \$162 million in three weeks.

Lee's critically acclaimed "BlackKkKlansman" also opened strongly with \$10.8 million in 1,512 theaters. The Focus Features release, which took the Grand Prix at the Cannes Film Festival in May, was timed to the anniversary of the violent clashes between white nationalists and anti-racism counter protesters in Charlottesville, Virginia. Lee's film, produced by Jordan Peele ("Get Out"), is a true-life tale of African-American police detective Ron Stallworth (played by John David Washington, son of Denzel), who in 1979 infiltrated a Colorado Springs, Colorado, cell of the Ku Klux Klan.

"The anniversary of Charlottesville was something that

was very key to Spike," said Lisa Bunnell, Focus' president of distribution. "It's obviously a very emotional film that reflects the times. When audiences respond to that, it's what cinema is all about. The state of the country is such

that we're all feeling really conflicted and alone. This movie is a call to action, and a movie that brings people together."

It's Lee's best debut since 2006's "Inside Man."

Sony Screen Gem's PG-13-rated "Slender Man" didn't catch on the way some horror releases have this year. The film's 15 percent "rotten" Rotten Tomatoes rating probably didn't help. Audiences also gave it a seldom seen D-minus CinemaScore.

But with a \$10 million budget, the tale of an internet-famous boogeyman has a quick path to profitability for Sony.

The overall box office continues to be a roll, one that could continue next week with the landmark "Crazy Rich Asians."

"People are loving going to the movies right now, and I think the diversity of the content is really fueling a lot of enthusiasm," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for comScore. "There are so many different types of movies that you can see from every genre, for every audience."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday also are included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

His name is Idris Elba, but will he be first black Bond?

LONDON (AP) — British actor Idris Elba is stoking speculation he may take over the role of James

Bond when Daniel Craig steps aside, offering an enigmatic Twitter post that fueled the buzz about him becoming the first black Bond.

The star of shows such as "The Wire" and "Luther" on Sunday posted an artistic selfie under the words "my name's Elba, Idris Elba," echoing the

spy's famous catchphrase.

American film producer Antoine Fuqua stoked long-running speculation about Elba taking on the role last week, when he told Britain's Daily Star that Bond movie boss Barbara Broccoli had said "it is time" for a non-white actor to play agent 007.

But before fans go overboard, Elba posted another tweet a few hours later saying, "Don't believe the HYPE"

William & Mary board rescinds Bill Cosby honorary degree

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (AP) — The board of visitors of The College of William & Mary has voted to rescind an honorary degree awarded to comedian and actor Bill Cosby.

The board issued a statement Friday saying that since it awarded the Masters of Arts degree in 1993, "information came to light and was confirmed that Mr. Cosby engaged in abhorrent conduct antithetical to our university's core values."

Cosby was convicted in April of three counts of aggravated indecent assault for drugging and assaulting a woman at his suburban Philadelphia mansion in 2004. He faces sentencing Sept. 24.

Several schools have rescinded honorary degrees bestowed on Cosby, including Temple University, his alma mater. In June, three Maryland universities rescinded honorary degrees, as did Northwestern University, the first time in its 167 years.

Museum to show expressionist paintings of rocker Mellencamp

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio (AP) — An Ohio art museum has announced a new exhibition of paintings by rocker John Mellencamp, known for his expressionistic oil portraits and other works.

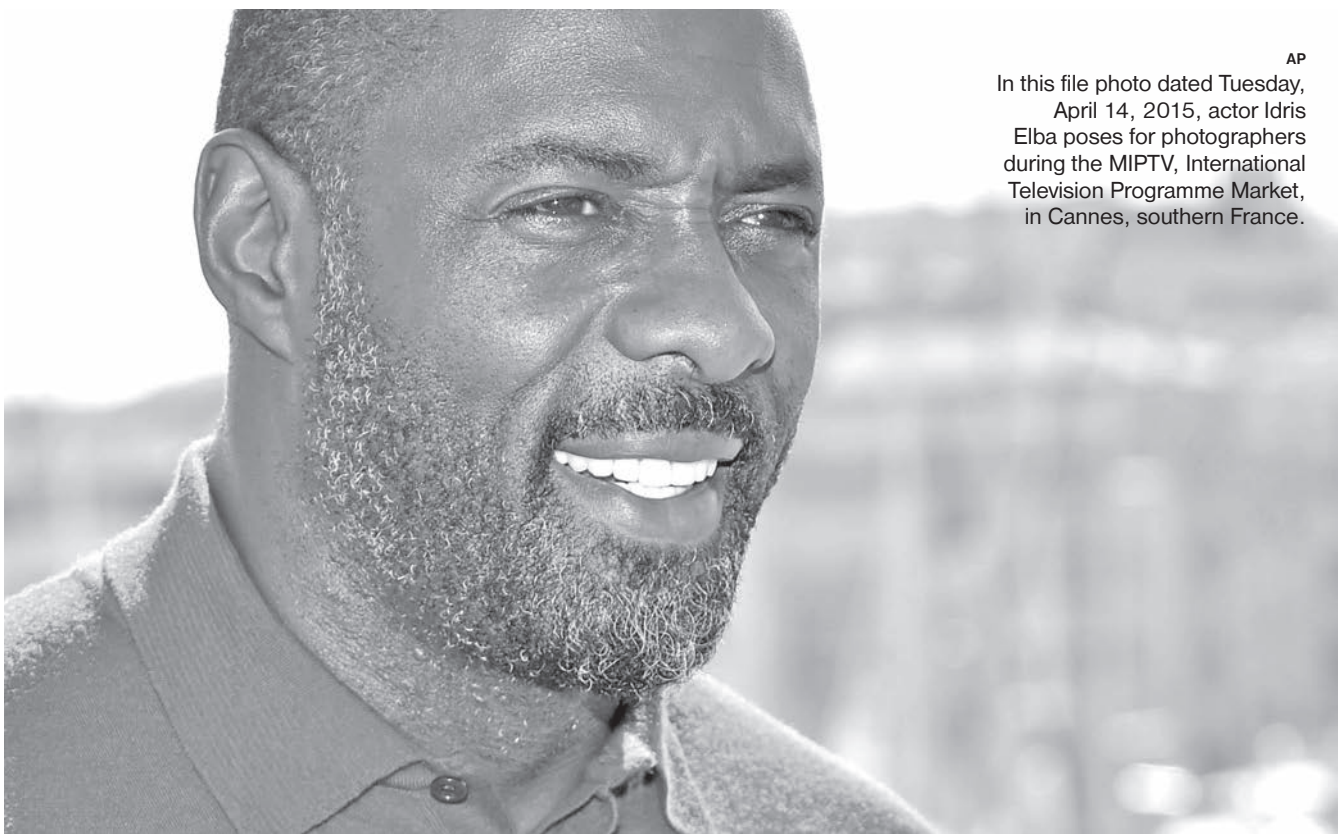
"John Mellencamp: Expressionist" opens Sept. 20 at the Butler Institute of American Art in Youngstown and runs through Nov. 18. It will include portraits and mixed-media pieces.

The show is Mellencamp's

second show with the Butler after his 2013-14 exhibition at the museum's Trumbull Branch in suburban Howland.

Mellencamp is known for rock classics including "Small Town," "Jack and Diane" and "Pink Houses."

The Butler Institute has a reputation for exhibiting artwork by famous actors and musicians, with recent displays by Bob Dylan, Peter Falk, Tony Bennett, Jessica Lange, Ronnie Wood and Kim Novak.



AP
In this file photo dated Tuesday, April 14, 2015, actor Idris Elba poses for photographers during the MIPTV, International Television Programme Market, in Cannes, southern France.

Trump praises Kanye West after Kimmel appearance

LOS ANGELES (AP) — President Donald Trump is thanking Kanye West after the rapper talked about his support for Trump during an appearance Thursday on ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Live!"

"Thank you to Kanye West and the fact that he is willing to tell the TRUTH," Trump said in a tweet from his Bedminster, New Jersey, golf course Friday evening. "It is making a big difference."

But the appearance wasn't all positive.

West was notably silent on the show when he was asked why he thinks the president cares about black people.

West was discussing his support for Trump and questioning why people go after the president instead of trying "love" when Kimmel pointed to the policy

that separated families caught crossing the border illegally.

"You've so famously and so powerfully said 'George Bush doesn't care about black people,' it makes me wonder what makes you think that Donald

Trump does, or any people at all?" Kimmel asked.

West considered the question, sitting silently without answering before Kimmel took a commercial break.

Kimmel had earlier asked

West if he was worried about his wife, Kim Kardashian West, being alone with the president in the Oval Office during a recent visit.

The rapper replied that Trump "is a player," drawing laughs.



AP
In this image released by ABC, musician Kanye West, left, and host Jimmy Kimmel appear on the set of "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" in Los Angeles. West appeared on Thursday, Aug. 10, 2018 and discussed his support for Trump. He did not answer when Kimmel asked if the rapper thought Trump cares about black people, or any people at all.

Friendship with woman makes waves in men's relationship

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 35-year-old gay man who has been in a serious relationship for five years. During the last year, my significant other, "Grady," has grown very close with a female co-worker of mine he met at my office party. (I'll call her Tina.) They have become inseparable, and when they aren't hanging out, he's constantly texting and calling her.

At first I didn't have a problem with it, but lately I'm getting some strange vibes. Grady always said he was never attracted to women, but I have caught him ogling Tina when she's at our pool in her bikini. He acts like a jealous boyfriend when men approach her and even ran off a couple she briefly dated.

Yesterday there was a fire in the building where I work, and everyone was forced to evacuate. Last night I discovered that when Grady heard it on the radio, he left his job to come and get Tina and drive her home. Not once did he attempt to contact me to see how I was doing.

When I confronted him, he argued that Tina doesn't have a car (which is true), and said he was worried because she's "just a kid." But, Abby, she's NOT a kid. Tina is 25 years old and capable of calling a taxi or asking for a ride. I told him that rather than leave work, he could have called me and asked me to drive her home. Later he admitted that she hadn't tried to contact him—that his worry drove him to come and get her, which indicates to me that something more is going on.

Am I overreacting like he says, or should I be worried I'm about to lose my man?

JEALOUS IN TEXAS

DEAR JEALOUS: Grady does seem fixated on Tina. I have heard of straight men repressing their homosexual feelings until they are middle-aged, so I suppose it's possible for a gay man to discover that he's bisexual. That said, I'm not sure you are overreacting. Whether Tina is a threat to your relationship only he can answer.

If Grady is willing to go with you, relationship counseling should be available at your nearest gay and lesbian community center. I suggest this because the two of you may need an unbiased referee to prevent an honest conversation about your feelings from degenerating into an argument.

DEAR ABBY: My in-laws (whom I love) stay with us twice a year and we entertain them while they're here. Whenever they are in town, my husband's ex-wife insists on meeting them for lunch.

It has been 10 years since my husband and his ex were divorced. They have adult children. Her inclusion hurts my feelings, and I suspect my in-laws are just afraid of hurting the ex's feelings. She is remarried, too. How would you feel?

TIRED OF IT IN TENNESSEE

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR TIRED: I would feel less threatened than you apparently do, and this is how I would handle it: I'd keep the visit positive, and realize the ex is ancient history. I would not let her presence ruin the visit. Your in-laws are adults. If they didn't want to see her, they would find a way to tell her that they couldn't fit her in. If necessary, I would also remind myself that their having lunch with her has nothing to do with the relationship they have with me, which is what I recommend you do.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

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Garfield®

By Jim Davis



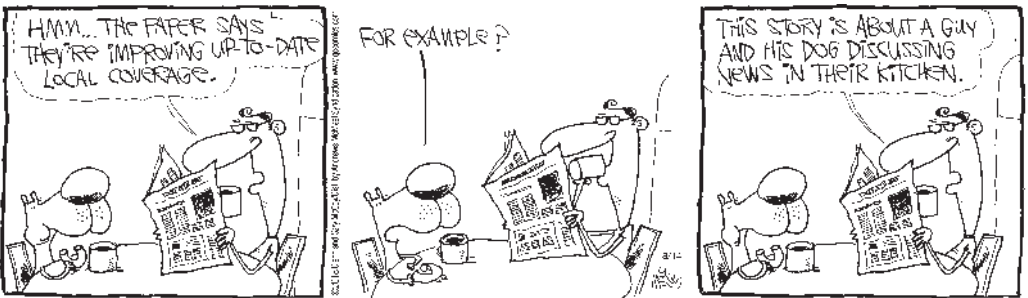
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Bridal accessory

5 Cato's 502

8 Sleeve end

12 Mater lead-in

13 Ornate vase

14 "Got it"

15 Some corp. recruits

16 Magic cures

18 Spring flowers

20 Endures

21 On in years

22 Abysmal

23 Aplomb

26 Straw hats

30 Yoko of music

31 Trail the pack

32 Past

33 Black leopard

36 Top picks, for short

DOWN

1 Siren

2 Exile isle

3 One-named super-model

4 Rodeo ropes

5 Hood-winked

6 Nest egg choices

7 Hostel

8 Locust

9 Exploits

10 Accomplishment

11 Own (up)

17 Arkin or Alda

19 -de-France

22 Satchel

23 Burst

24 Stop — dime

25 Charged bit

26 Standard

27 Dallas hoopster, briefly

28 Candle count

29 "May-day!"

31 Allow

34 Head honcho

35 Abhor

36 Enthusiast

37 Niche

39 West Pointer

40 Hot tubs

41 Humpty's perch

42 Within (Pref.)

43 Andean land

44 Throat clearer

45 Make a scarf

46 Billions of years

48 Filch

Solution time: 22 mins.

SAID SPA ELBE
LURE URL MEEK
CREL BEER PONS
BADEGG SHINES
L FEA LONG ERSE
AVA TUTE E DON
BENZ PROMSONG
D A ALMA
ELANDS OAFISH
ONGDONG AHLO
EDGE LTI RAIN
NOCR ETC ISME

Yesterday's answer 8-14

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mila Kunis, 35; Halle Berry, 52; Jackee Harry, 62; Steve Martin, 73.

Happy Birthday: You've got plenty going for you this year, so don't sell yourself short. You don't have to go overboard to get things up and running. Baby steps will lead to the success you're looking for. Plan, strategize and calculate your every move. Don't let change become bothersome. Work with what you have, keeping a steady pace and an open mind. Your numbers are 2, 14, 23, 25, 33, 38, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't worry so much about what others do. As long as you are happy with your performance, kindness and personal and spiritual growth, you can be proud of who you are and what you have to offer. Love and romance are encouraged. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A change of plans shouldn't throw you off your schedule. Don't become disconcerted if someone isn't into doing what you do. Carry on and enjoy yourself, regardless of who is in your corner and who isn't. Consistency matters. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Update your appearance to give yourself a boost. How you present who you are and what you are capable of doing will make a difference. Rely on your intelligence to help you sort through any differences you have with others. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Problems at home will fester if you are moody or don't address the real problem. Skirting issues or sulking will only make others distance themselves from you. Look at whatever positive you can find in any situation; you'll turn things around. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Travel, communication and sorting out any differences you have with someone will lead to greater success and happiness. Work with, not against, what's best in the long term. Short-term benefits will not sustain what you are trying to achieve. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A change to the way you approach others will help you uncover problems that are holding you back. If you want someone to see things from your perspective, find a fun way to display your feelings and plans for the future. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): If emotions start to take over, look for something to do that gives back. If you are helping someone, you will realize everyone faces adversity, and doing something about it instead of dwelling on the negative is your best recourse. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Keep things in perspective. Steer clear of those unwilling to budge so you can continue to do your own thing without having to put up with nonsense that will slow you down. It's important to keep moving forward. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Do a good job and be proud of your accomplishments. A positive attitude will draw attention to how proficient you are. Build solid relationships at work as well as in your personal life, but don't let others cost you. ****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't let negativity seep into your conversations or the way you treat others. Confront any issues you have with an open mind and heart. Let others do what works best for them; you'll get more in return. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Put all your papers, feelings and plans for the future in order. Knowing what you want to end up with will help you move forward at an even pace. Don't let the actions of others lead to costly setbacks. ****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Look for new ways to make your money work for you. Go over contracts, negotiate and look for innovative ways to move forward with your plans. Align yourself with positive, productive people who are heading in a similar direction. ***

Birthday Baby: You are amicable, fun-loving and sensitive. You are passionate and caring.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

STUMPED?

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Difficulty Level ★★

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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

LIBRETTISTS

Solution: 9 letters

E E N E C S R E C I T A L T T
E M E H T I A U D I E N C E E
D O Y D O R A P F I V S L O M
A T A H M A S Q U E T L N P I
L I C W R D R S R A A O I R M
L O S E R O C S G B I Y E R M
A N P O L I E E R T D H O Y U
B E W E R Y T D A O E F A C S
C L D Y R P I E L A R W N T E
O A L I A R E R E D C A L T
M C L R L C M S P A S S A G E
P I C O P T A A O R O T C A N
O S G O L L X R R H Y T H M N
S U E K O O B E O D I S T E O
E M R E T A E H T A Z N A T S

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Actor, Audience, Ballet, Book, Broadway, Choir, Compose, Creation, Dialogue, Drama, Edit, Emotion, Idea, Lyrics, Masque, Melody, Mime, Muse, Musical, Odist, Opera, Parody, Passage, Perform, Plot, Poem, Poet, Recital, Rehearsal, Rhyme, Rhythm, Role, Scane, Scores, Script, Song, Sonnet, Stage, Stanza, Tale, Text, Theater, Theme, Verse, Words, Writer

Yesterday's Answer

9 8 1 2 7 4 5 6 3
7 3 6 1 5 9 4 8 2
2 5 4 3 6 8 9 7 1
3 6 2 5 9 1 7 4 8
1 9 5 8 4 7 2 3 6
4 7 8 6 2 3 1 9 5
6 2 9 7 8 5 3 1 4
8 1 7 4 3 2 6 5 9
5 4 3 9 1 6 8 2 7

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Bote's grand slam in 9th lifts Cubs over Nationals



CHICAGO
(AP)—Pinch-hitter David

Bote smashed a grand slam against Ryan Madson with two outs in the ninth inning to lift the Chicago Cubs to a 4-3 victory over the Washington Nationals on Sunday night.

Bote's long drive to center field came after Washington's Max Scherzer and Chicago's Cole Hamels delivered simply dominant starts.

Madson (2-5) came in with a 3-0 lead to start the ninth and quickly ran into trouble. He gave up an infield single to Jason Heyward with one out and hit Albert Almora with a pitch. Madson then retired Kyle Schwarber on a foul pop before hitting Contreras to load the bases, but Bote drove a 2-2 pitch well beyond the center-field wall.

Bote's drive made a winner of Justin Wilson (4-3), who got the final two outs in the ninth.

Red Sox 4, Orioles 1

In Baltimore, Chris Sale celebrated his return from the disabled list by striking out 12 over five dominant innings, and the Boston Red Sox moved 50 games over .500 by completing a sweep of the lowly Orioles.

Sale (12-4) was placed on the DL on July 28 with left shoulder inflammation. Judging by his performance, the injury is no longer an issue.

The left-hander allowed just one hit, a clean third-inning single to left field by Renato Nunez, and walked none. Craig Kimbrel, the last of five Boston relievers, worked the ninth for his 35th save.

Mariners 4, Astros 3, 10 innings

In Houston, Ryon Healy hit a tying homer with two out in the ninth inning. Mitch Haniger delivered an RBI double in the 10th and the Mariners swept a four-game series from the AL West-leading Astros.

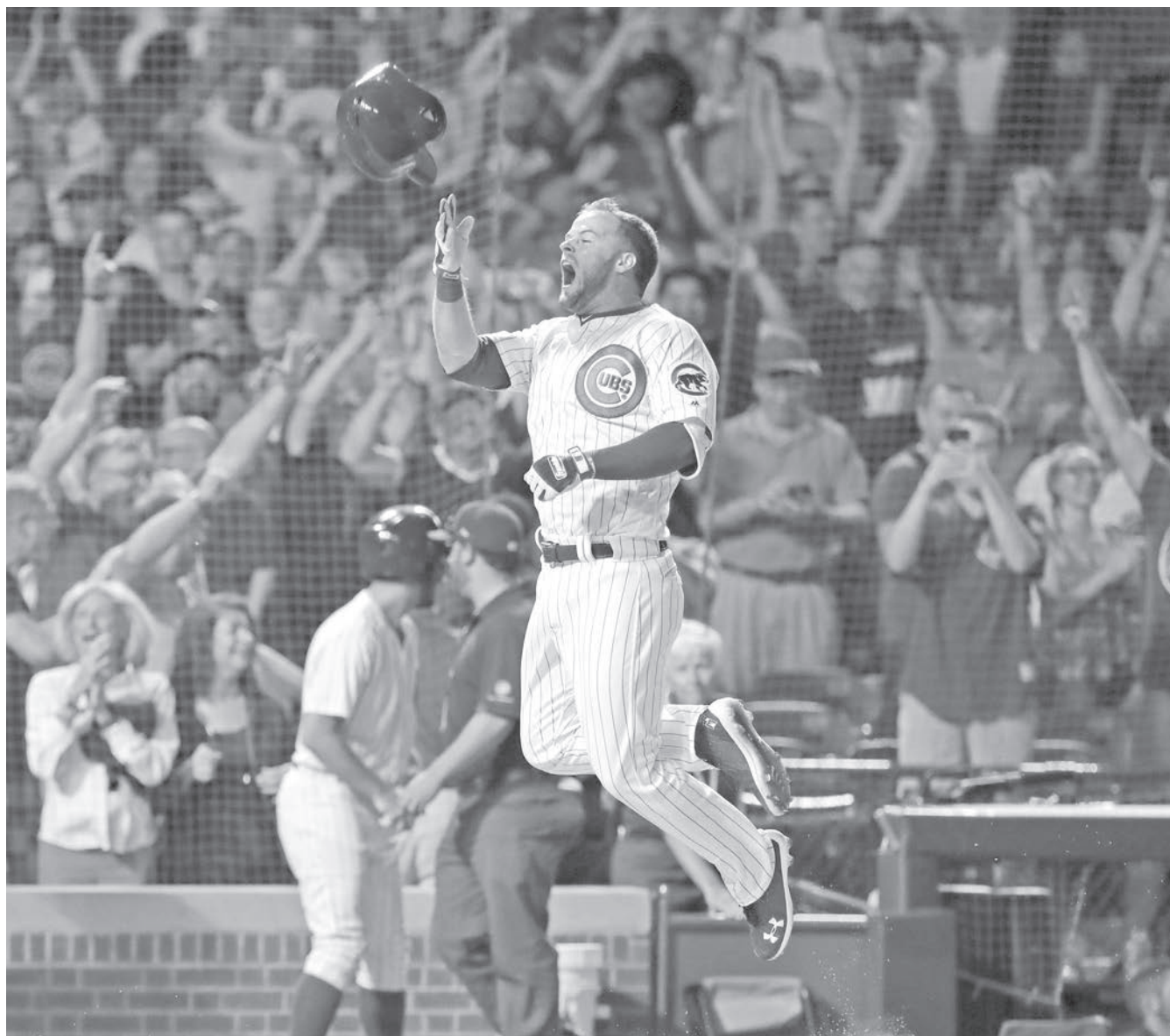
It's the first time in franchise history that Seattle swept a four-game series from Houston. The third-place Mariners pulled within four games of the Astros.

Healy's solo drive off Hector Rondon made it 3-all. Pinch-hitter Dee Gordon singled against Roberto Osuna (1-1) with one out in the 10th, and the speedster easily scored on Haniger's double that skipped down the left field line.

Rockies 4, Dodgers 3

In Denver, Chris Iannetta drew a bases-loaded walk with two out in the ninth inning, and the Rockies beat the Dodgers after squandering a late lead.

It was the second walk-off



win in as many days for Colorado. Ryan McMahon lined a three-run homer in the ninth on Saturday.

McMahon was walked intentionally to load the bases for Iannetta, who drew a five-pitch walk off Dylan Floro (4-3).

Yankees 7, Rangers 2

In New York, CC Sabathia threw six shutout innings, Giancarlo Stanton homered again and the Yankees won for the sixth time in seven games.

Didi Gregorius also homered and turned in a nifty defensive play for New York. Sabathia (7-4) allowed one hit in his first win since July 4.

Joey Gallo had two hits for Texas, which dropped three of four in the series. He also reached over the left-field wall to take a home run away from Austin Romine in the eighth.

Cardinals 8, Royals 2

In Kansas City, Yadier Molina hit a tiebreaking two-run single in the seventh inning, and St. Louis matched a season high with its fifth consecutive win.

The Cardinals moved eight games above .500, equaling their season high set on June 11, and improved to a National League-best 12-4 since July 27.

Molina's bases-loaded single scored Harrison Bader and Patrick Wisdom, who had two hits, drove in a run and scored twice in his major league debut.

The lowly Royals have dropped nine of 10. Jason Hammel (2-12) got the loss.

Braves 8, Brewers 7

In Atlanta, Ozzie Albies led off the seventh inning with a tiebreaking homer, one of three for Atlanta, and the Braves overcame 19 hits by Milwaukee.

Ronald Acuna Jr. and Dansby Swanson each hit a two-run homer for Atlanta, which took two of three in a matchup of playoff contenders. Jonny Venters (2-1) pitched a scoreless inning for the win, and A.J. Minter worked the ninth for his 10th save.

Jesus Aguilar hit a three-run homer and drove in four runs for Milwaukee. The Brewers left 13 runners on base.

Athletics 8, Angels 7

In Anaheim, Jed Lowrie homered and moved over 1,000 hits for his career, and Oakland held on for its ninth win in 11 games.

The A's, who currently occupy the second AL wild-card spot, moved within 2 1/2 games of first-place Houston in the AL West.

Fernando Rodney (4-2) pitched a scoreless inning for his first victory with Oakland. Blake Treinen struck out the side in the ninth for his 30th save.

Angels manager Mike Scioscia went with a bullpen day. Taylor Cole (0-3), making his

first career start, allowed three runs in 1 1/3 innings.

Diamondbacks 9, Reds 2

In Cincinnati, Paul Goldschmidt hit two of Arizona's five homers, and the Diamondbacks avoided a sweep.

Daniel Descalso, Eduardo Escobar and David Peralta also connected for Arizona, and Zack Godley (13-6) pitched 6 2/3 innings of two-run ball. Goldschmidt finished with three hits and three RBI.

Last-place Cincinnati had won three of four, including the first two games of the weekend series. Jose Peraza and Eugenio Suarez each had two hits, but Luis Castillo (6-10) was tagged for five runs and five hits in 5 2/3 innings.

Padres 9, Phillies 3

In San Diego, Freddy Galvis hit a grand slam for San Diego, and Travis Jankowski stole four bases and scored three times.

Galvis connected against Jake Arrieta (9-7) in the third inning, hitting a two-out drive to center for his first career slam. It was his third homer in his last seven games and No. 8 on the season.

Last-place San Diego won for the fifth time in seven games, including two of three against NL East-leading Philadelphia. Joey Lucchesi (6-6) struck out six in six scoreless innings.

Indians 9, White Sox 7

In Cleveland, Carlos Carrasco struck out nine in seven innings, and the Indians held on for the win.

AL Central-leading Cleveland had a 9-1 lead heading into the bottom of the eighth, and almost blew it. Run-scoring singles by Tim Anderson and Kevan Smith trimmed the Indians' lead to 9-5 in the ninth before manager Terry Francona replaced Dan Otero with Cody Allen.

Adam Engel greeted the closer with a two-run triple before Allen struck out Nicky Delmonico and Yolmer Sanchez for his 23rd save in 26 chances.

Carrasco (14-6) allowed three hits. Melky Cabrera hit a three-run homer against one of his former teams, helping the Indians take two of three in the series.

Chicago's Dylan Covey (4-9) allowed six runs and seven hits in just 2 2/3 innings.

Giants 4, Pirates 3

In San Francisco, the Giants' Dereck Rodriguez pitched seven innings of two-hit ball, continuing his sparkling rookie season.

Rodriguez (6-1) allowed one run, struck out four and walked one. Will Smith pitched the ninth for his eighth save.

Nick Hundley and Joe Panik each drove in two runs for the Giants, and Gorkys Hernandez scored twice.

Chicago Cubs' David Bote throws his helmet as he rounds the bases after hitting the game-winning grand slam against the Washington Nationals during the ninth inning of a baseball game Sunday, Aug. 12, 2018, in Chicago. The Cubs won, 4-3.

Starling Marte had a two-run double for the Pirates. Joe Musgrove (4-7) allowed three earned runs in six innings.

Tigers 4, Twins 2

In Detroit, Matthew Boyd pitched six strong innings and the Tigers beat the Twins on Jack Morris Day at Comerica Park.

The game started 20 minutes late because of the ceremony to retire Morris' No. 47 jersey. Morris and longtime teammate Alan Trammell were inducted into the Hall of Fame earlier this month.

Boyd (7-10) won for the third time in four starts, giving up one run and two hits. Shane Greene pitched the ninth for his 25th save.

Kohl Stewart (0-1) took the loss in his major league debut, allowing three runs and eight hits in 4 1/3 innings.

Mets 4, Marlins 3

In Miami, Jose Reyes hit a two-run homer and Noah Syndergaard struck out seven in seven innings, leading the Mets to the victory.

Michael Conforto also connected for New York, which took two of three in the weekend series. Wilmer Flores knocked in a run with a sacrifice fly.

Syndergaard (8-2) allowed three runs and seven hits. He improved to 4-1 in his last five starts.

Seth Lugo worked around two hits in the ninth while recording his first career save.

Bryan Holaday had two hits and drove in two runs for Miami. Wei-Yin Chen (4-9) allowed four runs, two earned, and four hits in six innings.

Blue Jays 2, Rays 1

In Toronto, Kevin Pillar scored the tiebreaking run on an infield grounder in the sixth inning, helping the Blue Jays avoid a three-game series sweep.

Devon Travis had two hits and drove in a run as Toronto won for the second time in nine meetings with Tampa Bay.

Tampa Bay's lone run came in the fourth on a two-out RBI single by Willy Adames.

Jaime Garcia (3-6) worked one inning for the win. Ken Giles got three outs for his 13th save in 13 opportunities.

Tampa Bay's Jose Alvarado (1-5) got one out and was charged with a run and two hits.

Koepka holds off Woods to win PGA Championship

ST. LOUIS (AP)— Brooks Koepka is what Tiger Woods used to be.

At least in majors.

And Tiger isn't far from being that old Tiger again.

Koepka won his third major title in his last six starts in the game's four biggest tournaments, a Tiger-esque stretch that includes victory in the past two playings of the U.S. Open and now the 100th PGA Championship.

Just like Tiger was back in his heyday, Koepka is a physically imposing, supremely confident, ultra-cool presence who dismantles the toughest tracks in golf and the most star-studded fields in the game.

At Bellerive Country Club on a steamy Sunday, Koepka completed his thumping of the course and held off one challenger after another with a final-round, 4-under-par 66 that left him at 16 under and two clear of Woods, three clear of Adam Scott and four clear of Stewart Cink and Jon Rahm.

Koepka's heart didn't skip a beat—it rarely does—despite the stampede of challengers hunting him and the vortex of noise that is Woods, who turned in his best result in a

AP
Brooks Koepka lifts the Wanamaker Trophy after winning the PGA Championship golf tournament at Bellerive Country Club, Sunday, Aug. 12, 2018, in St. Louis.



Tiger's strong finish at PGA likely cements his spot as captain's pick

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Now is when it gets interesting for Jim Furyk.

Following the finish of the year's final major, Sunday's PGA Championship, eight members have unofficially qualified for the United States Ryder Cup team that Furyk will captain in Paris next month. Their names: Dustin Johnson, Brooks Koepka, Justin Thomas, Patrick Reed, Bubba Watson, Jordan Spieth, Rickie Fowler and Webb Simpson.

Furyk now has less than a month to announce his four captain's picks.

Among those resoundingly stating their case over the weekend include Tiger Woods, whose solo second on Sunday very likely cements his place on his seventh career Ryder Cup team. Woods began the week 20th in the U.S. Ryder Cup rankings and moves up to 11th. "Trending," he called it.

His sterling performance over the weekend—including a career-best final-round 64—was likely all the convincing Furyk needed.

"I'm just very pleased at what I've done so far and now to be a part of the Ryder Cup conversation, going from where I've come to now in the last year, it's been pretty cool," Woods said af-

ter finishing two shots back of Koepka.

Woods didn't downplay his stunning revival. Asked if last winter, while on the mend after a fourth back operation, if he could've ever envisioned a Sunday like this, chasing down a 15th major championship, he responded with a question of his own.

"With what swing?" he said. "I didn't have a swing at the time. I had no speed. I didn't have a golf swing."

He made it clear: He wasn't sure he'd ever play golf again.

He's got his swing back now, and it seems impossible that Furyk leaves him off the team heading to France. Woods is simply playing too well.

The final three spots appear far more unsettled. In the running, heading into the week, included three players who never made it to the weekend: Phil Mickelson, Bryson DeChambeau and Matt Kuchar. All failed to make the cut.

Of those who did make it to the weekend, Zach Johnson finished in a tie for 19th, Xander Schauffele finished in a tie for 35th and Tony Finau settled in a tie for 42nd. Another name to consider: Kevin Kisner, who finished in a tie for 12th after bolting to the lead earlier in the tournament.

major in years and knocked the socks off the massive crowds that flocked to Bellerive.

"The crowds here, they let you know what's going on," Koepka said. "The beginning of the back nine, I could hear all the roars. When Tiger started making his little run, and Scotty made his run, it got loud."

Koepka never lost the lead he took into Sunday and delivered two birdies from short distance on the 15th and 16th holes to hold the field at bay and earned him the right to wrap his enormous arms around the Wanamaker Trophy. It was a fitting conclusion to a week in which he overpowered the soft track with his driver, wedge and putter.

With rounds of 69-63-66-66, Koepka is without question elite and he joined some heady company as he, Woods, Jack Nicklaus, Ben Hogan

and Gene Sarazen are the only players to win the U.S. Open and PGA Championship in the same year. Koepka also moved to No. 2 in the world, trailing just his good friend, Dustin Johnson.

As for Woods, do you want to doubt him now?

Woods had to have silenced his harshest critics, including even the Tiger haters. While his claws didn't clutch a fifth Wanamaker Trophy and he didn't win his 15th major and first since capturing the 2008 U.S. Open, Woods showed one and all he's back to being a preeminent force once again just 16 months after his Hail Mary spinal fusion surgery.

After starting his comeback ranked 1,199th, Woods is now 26th in the world and Sunday's final round at Bellerive Country Club was a punctuation mark of a season of change for

Woods—so far—one that has included equipment tinkering, alterations to his swing and a new putter in the bag.

On Sunday, Woods was an act that played out in two parts, the first coming on the front nine where everything was a mess except his scorecard. His tempo was off, his swing was too fast from the top through impact, and he didn't hit a single fairway in regulation.

In his most recent injury-riddled years, that would have spelled doom. But now, after a season of progress, a season where he gradually improved from one tournament to another, gaining confidence along the way, Woods showed himself and his peers that he can be a force when he doesn't have his "A" game. Woods became Houdini on the front and made four birdies with some

of the most outrageous scrambling you've ever seen.

He made the turn just one shot out of the lead and then unleashed some vintage form. He added four more birdies, left one birdie putt on the lip and had a par putt lip out. He closed with a 64—his best final-round score in a major—and his 266 total was the lowest he has ever shot in a major.

In the end, however, Woods had an answer for most everything he faced this week except Koepka.

"I played hard," Woods said. "I made a bit of a run."

"It's tough to beat when the guy hits it 340 down the middle. What he did at Shinnecock (in the Open), just bombing it, and then he's doing the same thing here. ... And when a guy's doing that and hitting it straight, and as good a putter as he is, it's tough to beat."

Browns 'sticking' with plan to start Taylor over Mayfield



BEREA, Ohio (AP)—He's still Baker the backup.

Despite rookie Baker Mayfield's stellar performance in his NFL preseason debut, the Cleveland Browns are not moving the No. 1 overall pick into the starting lineup ahead of Tyrod Taylor.

"National hype," quarterbacks coach Ken Zampese said, downplaying the outside push to elevate Mayfield after one game. "We have our plan, we're sticking to it and when it changes we'll all know."

Mayfield won over some

doubters on Thursday night in a 20-10 win over the New York Giants. The Heisman Trophy winner from Oklahoma threw two touchdown passes to tight end David Njoku and showed pocket poise and awareness while completing 11 of 20 passes for 212 yards.

The reviews on Mayfield were exceptional, leading to cries that he should jump Taylor, who went 5 for 5 for 99 yards and posted a perfect 158.3 rating during his two series.

Following Sunday's practice, Browns coach Hue Jackson began shaking his head

the moment a reporter began framing a question about the QB situation.

"Nothing's changed. Tyrod Taylor is our starter," Jackson said. "Baker Mayfield is a young, talented player. We have a bright, bright future here with that young man."

Zampese was pleased with everything he saw from Mayfield, but he cautioned against making too much of his first taste of pro football.

"He's had 22 preseason NFL snaps," Zampese said. "He has a long way to go and we're encouraged with where

he's at right now."

The feeling is the same about Taylor, who was acquired from Buffalo during the offseason. The 29-year-old has been everything the Browns could have hoped as a leader and mentor to Mayfield.

"He's our guy, and that's what he is," Zampese said, "and to keep bringing it up is the only reason why anybody put a cloud in anybody's head. So let's get on with him being the guy and let's get on to playing and winning and doing what we're supposed to do and what we're here for."

SIS' Tan and Altizer top McFun Run

By FAHIM UDDIN
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REPORTER



Saipan International School teacher Whit Altizer and student Tania Tan emerged as the top finishers in last Saturday's 4th Annual McFun Run.

Altizer was the overall No. 1 finisher and took the men's division title after completing the five-kilometer run from Chamolinian Utt and back (with turn-around point across National Office Supply) in 18:47. Altizer, who made his debut on Saipan road race, defeated long-time runner Kosuke Sato (19:16).

Tan, on the other hand, was the first female to make it to the start/finish line after clocking in at 20:40. She and Altizer joined the nearly 200 runners that participated in the event organized by McDonald's Saipan together with Rotary Club of Saipan.

The two SIS runners and other top finishers in their respective divisions received medals and in-kind prizes from McDonald's and the events sponsors.

"I would like to thank our sponsors for helping push this event," McDonald's co-owner and Rotary Club of Saipan



Saipan International School teacher Whit Altizer, third left, and student Tania Tan, left, pose with their medals and prizes after placing first in last Saturday's 4th Annual McFun Run. They are joined in the photo by McDonald's co-owner Marcia Ayuyu, fourth left, manager Jocelyn Asistores, right, and Rotary Club of Saipan officials.

president Marcia Ayuyu.

Ayuyu thanked the follow-

ing for supporting the weekend event: National Office

Supply, Bank of Guam, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, IT&E,

Messi gets record-33rd title as Barcelona wins Spanish Super Cup

TANGIER, Morocco (AP)—Lionel Messi won his 33rd title with Barcelona on Sunday to become the most successful player in the Catalan club's history.

Barcelona beat Sevilla, 2-1, in the Spanish Super Cup as Messi overtook Andres Iniesta, who had 32 titles when he left this summer for the Japanese league.

Ousmane Dembele scored a late winning goal with a blistering strike from outside the area. The 21-year-old France winger stunned Sevilla's defense with a right-footed shot that hit the underside of the crossbar in the 78th minute.

Barcelona goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen secured the win when he saved a penalty kick from Sevilla substitute Wissam Ben Yedder in the 89th after Ter Stegen fouled former Barcelona forward Aleix Vidal.

Pablo Sarabia opened for Sevilla in the ninth, when the video assistant referee over-

ruled an offside call in the first use of VAR in Spanish competition.

Gerard Pique equalized three minutes before halftime when he finished off a free kick by Messi that hit the post and ricocheted off the back of goalkeeper Tomas Vaclik—and again off the upright—before falling to the

Barcelona defender.

While Barcelona dominated possession, Sevilla went close to going back in front when Franco Vazquez's glancing header hit the top of the goal-frame in the 62nd before Dembele took his winner.

A year ago, Barcelona broke their own transfer re-

cord to sign Dembele from Borussia Dortmund in August for a fee of 105 million euros (now \$120 million) that could rise to 147 million euros. But his first season at Camp Nou was limited by injuries as Dembele struggled to replace the hole left by Neymar after he went to Paris Saint-Germain.



Lionel Messi gestures after winning his 33rd title with Barcelona on Sunday to become the most successful player in the Catalan club's history. Barcelona beat Sevilla, 2-1, in the Spanish Super Cup.

CNMI

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assignment. The 15-year-old will challenge No. 5 seed Grace Schumacher of Australia at the upper half of the draw. If Kaga survives her opener, she will be pitted against the winner between Australia's

Cyan Sun and New Zealand's Ely Sagui-Ventura.

Meanwhile, in the boys main draw, the CNMI is represented by Robbie Schorr, Ken Song, and Lee's brother, Sean.

Sean is at the lower half of the draw and will meet No. 4 seed Stefan Storch of Australia. Schorr and Song's first

round opponents are also from the Land Down Under, but the latter have a tougher foe in No. 5 seed Ken Cavrak at the upper half of the draw. Schorr on the other hand, will take on the unranked Alex Bulte in the opening round and then may have an early collision against the No. 2 seed Dane Sweeny, also from

Australia. Sweeny is picked to prevail against his unranked compatriot Peter Politis.

Schorr, Carol, and Sean are competing in the Oceania Closed in the hopes of gaining more ITF Juniors ranking points. Kaga and Song, on the other hand, aim to earn their first ranking points.

Stay Well, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Kanoa Resort, Triple J Wholesale, Coca-Cola, MA-ROAC, Twins Supermarket. Pacific Islands Club Saipan, DFS/T Galleria, Herman's Modern Bakery, and Ming

Yang Supermarket.

The Rotary president said they intend to use proceeds from the event for future projects. She also hopes for more participants in next year's McFun Run.

ACES

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Indians (2-13), and Outlaws (0-16) complete the standings and have been eliminated.

The Aces pulled off a come-from-behind win over the Mariners after scoring three runs at the bottom of the eighth inning. The defending champions started the pivotal inning behind, 2-3, and then stole the lead, 4-3, when John Tudela and Barry Sunumai reached off the Mariners' errors. Ben Jones added one more run when he made it home off a hit by pitch before Angel Falig flied out at center field for the third out.

Nate Smith's catch on Falig shot left three Aces' runners stranded and kept the Mariners in the game. However, the Mariners failed to counter at the top of the ninth inning, as the Aces got the two quick outs—Ton Tenorio was beaten at first on a 6-3 play and Devyn Flores flying out at center field—and Pat Tenorio went down on a 6-4 putout play after Yamada advanced to first off a fielder's choice.

With the close loss, the Mariners needed to win against the Indians last night to remain in playoff contention. After yesterday's game, the Mariners are supposed to have one more match, but their duel against Ballistics will no longer be

played and the former automatically get the win, as the latter had already forfeited it.

Meanwhile, the Falcons are in a good position to march into the playoffs after notching win No. 11 with two games left in their schedule.

A 10-run top of the fourth inning powered the Falcons to the important victory over the Blue Jays. The Falcons were down after three complete innings, 1-3, before they made a run at the top of the fourth. Frankie Lifofoi highlighted the Falcons' juggernaut, as he blasted a two-run triple and also scored one run. Bradley Lieto and J.J. Lifofoi added two runs apiece and the Falcons got six of their runs off the Blues Jays' defensive meltdowns.

The Blue Jays never recovered from thereon, as the Falcons shut down their foes from the fifth to seventh inning and also in the ninth. The Blue Jays' three other runs made in the fourth and eighth inning were all unearned.

After beating the Blue Jays last week, the Falcons will return to the "Tan Ko" field today to face the Aces in a crucial game. The Tanapag-based team will then close out their regular season campaign this Friday when they challenge the streaking Bears, who have yet to drop a game in the second round of the elimination.

'THE CRANK'

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though the former wants to capitalize on the areas where he has an advantage, he insisted on preparing for any kind of fight style Neal will throw at him.

"Training is going great. We are right on schedule with conditioning and game planning. The theme of this fight camp is to be prepared for everything. Working my striking, wrestling, and ground game together. I never know where the fight will end up," said Camacho, who has a better TKO/KO percentage against Neal, 71-56.

If the bout will be a grappling affair, all the advantages point to Camacho who has 1.67 and 55.56 percent takedown average and takedown accuracy, respectively, against zero from Neal in both categories. The Marianas fighter also has a better percentage in takedowns defended, 80-66.67.

Neal, who has the advantage

in reach (75 inches against Camacho's 73) and height (5'11"-5'9"), is expected to go for a standup fight where he has strong chances of winning. The Texas native's strikes has an accuracy of 51.92 percent and he knows how to defend well against them, as his past opponents' landed punches is only at the 1.9 per minute ratio against Camacho's 7.62. Neal's defense against strikes is at 70 percent versus the 54.21 of the Guam-born and Saipan-raised fighter. However, Camacho's percentage on landed strikes per minute is better than Neal, 6.56-5.7.

Regardless of how the Camacho-Neal bout will turn out, the former vows to put on a show in his fourth, and hopefully not the last, UFC fight.

"We can expect a more patient and methodical 'Crank,' still carrying the island fighting heart and spirit all the time. I'm excited to put everything I've learned in the past three UFC fights into this next one," he said.

4th Annual McFun Run

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



Runners head out to the course during last Saturday's 4th Annual McFun Run.



The last wave of runners heads out to Beach Road,



Ben Babauta, left, instructs runners going out to the course.



Runners leave the start/finish line.

Runners wait for the start of the race at the Chamolinian Utt.



McDonald's co-owner Marcia Ayuyu, center, hands over a prize to one of the female winners in the five-kilometer race. Joining Ayuyu in the awards ceremony are Rotary Club of Saipan officials.



A race winner, second left, is all smiles after getting his award.



One of the female winners in last Saturday's event shows her prizes.

Bote's grand slam
in 9th lifts Cubs
over Nationals

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Saipan Tribune Sports



Koepka holds off
Woods to win PGA
Championship

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

'The Crank' eyes big finish vs Neal



MMAJUNKIE PHOTO
Frank "The Crank" Camacho, seen here trying to evade a strike from China's Ji-angliang Li during their bout in the UFC Fight Night 111 in Singapore last year, will return to the octagon cage next month when he takes on Geoff "Handz of Steel" Neal in UFC 228 in Texas.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Frank "The Crank" Camacho will have the final bout of his four-fight deal with Ultimate Fighting Championship next month when he sees action in UFC 228 at the American Airlines Center in Dallas, Texas.

Camacho will be pitted against Geoff "Handz of Steel" Neal on Sept. 8 (Sept. 9 on Saipan) and is aiming for a strong finish to land more fights under UFC.

"This is the last fight on my UFC four-fight contract. It is very important to have a dominant performance. I am currently 1-2 and want a win to be in good standing with the UFC. Coming off three fight of the nights, I am confident for another great performance for the UFC and the fans," Camacho told *Saipan Tribune*.

The Marianas fighter had his UFC debut in June 2017 and challenged China's Jiangliang Li in UFC Fight Night 111 in Singapore. Camacho was a last-minute replacement fighter, but was impressive in his first UFC appearance despite having less preparation and losing to Li via unanimous decision.

Then about five months after his UFC debut, Camacho won over Australia's Damien Brown (split decision) in front of the hometown crowd in Sydney. For this third UFC fight,

the 29-year-old fighter went to North Carolina early this year to square off against Omaha, Nebraska native Drew Dober in UFC on Fox 27. Camacho lost to Dober, but got the Fight of the Night title for the third straight time.

The defeat at the hands of Dober



dropped Camacho's win-loss-draw record to 21-0-6. Despite the loss, the Marianas pride still has more fights and experience than his upcoming opponent, who holds a 9-2-0 mark.

Meanwhile, the tale of the tape for the Camacho-Neal bout is out and

See 'THE CRANK' on Page 26

CNMI players start bid in ITF Juniors tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



All five CNMI players will appear in the opening round of the Oceania Closed Junior Championships 2018 today in Fiji.

Carol Lee will lead the Commonwealth bet competing in the tournament under the ITF Juniors Circuit, as she is seeded No. 4 in the women's singles. Lee is at the bottom half of the 32-player main draw and will face New Zealand's Ema Miyaura in the first round. If the heavily favored Lee wins against the unseeded Kiwi, she will face in the second round the winner between Australia's Roopa Bains and New Zealand's Vivian Yang, who are both unranked players.

The other CNMI female player in the draw is Conatsu Kaga and she will have a tough first round

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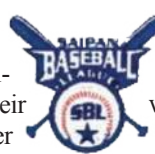
Aces, Falcons boost playoff bid

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Defending champions Aces and last year's finalists Falcons strengthened their playoff chances after prevailing in separate matches last week at the resumption of action in the 2018 Saipan Baseball League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Aces edged the Mariners in last Thursday's game, 5-3, while the Falcons dominated the Blue Jays last Wednesday, 14-6. With their victories, the



Falcons and Aces improved their records to 11-5 and 11-6, respectively.

The Falcons moved up to solo third place in the team standings, while the Aces are in fourth place, slightly ahead of the Mariners (10-6). The Falcons, Aces, and Mariners are battling for the last two playoff berths, as the Chalan Kanoa Bears (15-1) and Go See Mark (13-3) have already secured the first two semis tickets. The Blue Jays (4-11), Titanium (9-8), Ballistics (5-11),

See ACES on Page 26

JON PEREZ

A Falcons pitcher makes eye contact with their catcher before throwing to home plate during their first round game against the Blue Jays in the 2018 Saipan Baseball League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Conatsu Kaga is one of the five CNMI players competing in the Oceania Closed Junior Championships 2018 that will start today in Fiji.